Ch. 9 My Precious Cinderella

LOVE ATTACK

SUKI TOKKO TSUCHI

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YUKARI!!
FRIENDS
CHIHO
YUKARI
SHIHO
HANA
★ STUCK BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE DUE TO A RECORD OF FIGHTING IN SCHOOL, CHIHIRI IS GIVEN A CHOICE: EXPOSING PERVERT-CHILD KOUSUKI KIKKA OR GET EXPELLED! BUT WHEN CHIHIRI DISCOVERS THAT KIKKA IS REALLY JUST A NICE GUY STUCK WITH A BAD RAP, THE TWO AND UP DOING OUT TOGETHER.
★ WORLD TROUBLE SEEMS TO FOLLOW THE SCHEMING COUPLE LIKE A SHADOW. THEY GET A LAST CHANCE FOR SOME PEACE & ROMANCE DURING THE SCHOOL PLAY. CHIHIRI HAS A MOMENT WHERE SHE THINKS BEST FRIEND YUKARI MAY HAVE A CRUSH ON KIKKA, BUT IT TURNS OUT YUKARI'S PURSUING AND FOR HIKARU'S FRIEND, CHIHO.
★ SO CHIHIRI PROMISES TO HELP YUKARI AND CHIHO GET TOGETHER. CHIHIRI TACKLES THE PROJECT WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM, BUT LITTLE DISCERNING CHIHO FINDS OUT AND BLOWS A GASKET, LEAVING BEHIND A CONFUSED CHIHIRI AND A CRYING YUKARI...!
LOVE ATTACK
STORY SO FAR
KOIZUMI HIKARU
CHIHIRI YUKA
SCHOOL PLAY

LOVE ATTACK

JUNAI TOKKO TAICHO!

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BUT HE DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE. THINK ABOUT ME AT ALL.
I'VE BUILT UP A RIDICULOUS FANTASY WORLD INSIDE MY HEAD, WHERE ALL EXACTLY WHAT I'M REALLY LIKE
CLENCH
SNOWBALL
RUMBLE
EVERYTHING'S TOTALLY RUINED NOW
SNAP
SNAP
STUPID.

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I SHOULD'VE KNOWN! IT WAS MY DUTY TO KNOW!! BUT I DIDN'T!! HOW CAN I FACE HER AFTER SUCH A COLOSSAL FAILURE?!
I COULD'VE SWORN YUKARI WAS THE TYPE TO LEAP AT THOSE KINDS OF CHANCES!
BUT I WAS SO WRONG!! WHO WOULD'VE BELIEVED SHE WAS SO SHY AT HEART?!
C'MON, HIRATA!
I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE!!
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER FRIENDSHIP FOREVER!!
I SO SUCK !!!
I'M THE WORST FRIEND EVER !!!
I FEEL LIKE SUCH A FAILURE!
SETTING IT RUBBED IN MY FACE. OVER AND OVER IS TOO MUCH!!

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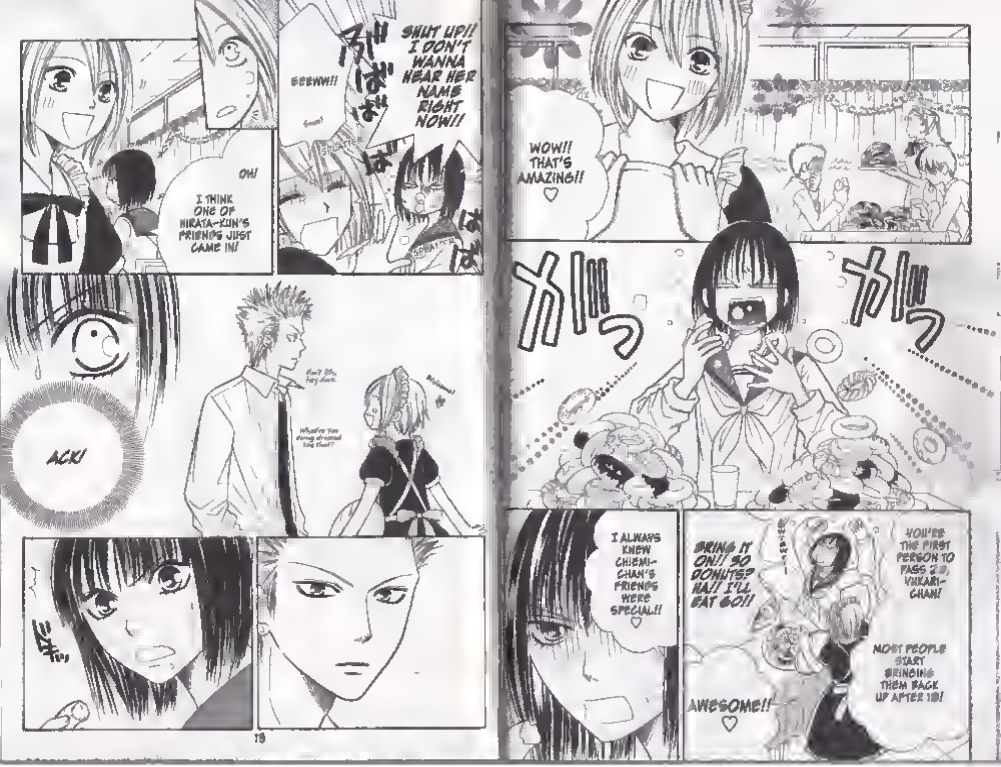
OH!
I THINK ONE OF HIRASA-KUN'S FRIENDS JUST CAME IN!
EEEWW!!
SHUT UP!! I DON'T WANNA HEAR HER NAME RIGHT NOW!!
ACK!
Don't like boys, huh.
Whaaa?
What're you doing all alone back there?
WOW!! THAT'S AMAZING!!
I ALWAYS KNEW CHIEMI-CHAN'S FRIENDS WERE SPECIAL!!
BRING IT ON!! SO DONUTS? HA!! I'LL EAT 60!!
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON TO PASS 2 :D, YUKARI-CHAN!
MOST PEOPLE START BRINGING THEM BACK UP AFTER 10!
AWESOME!!

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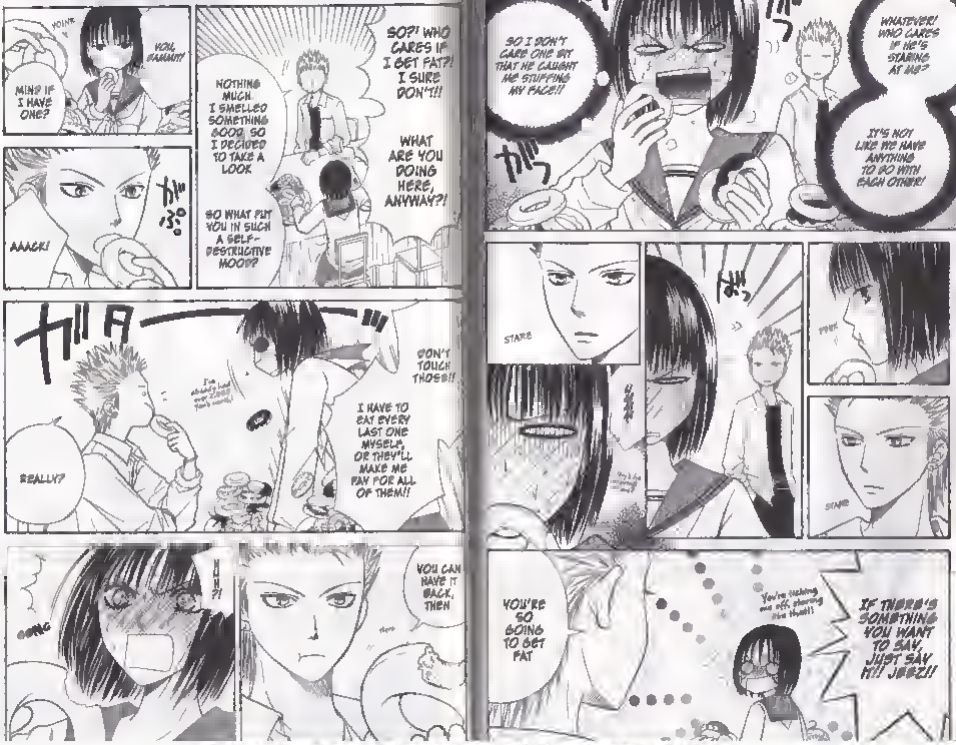
POINTE
MIND IF I HAVE ONE?
YOU, AHAHA!!!
AAACK!
NOTHING MUCH. I SMELLED SOMETHING GOOD, SO I DECIDED TO TAKE A LOOK
SO WHAT PUT YOU IN SUCH A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE MOOD?
SO?! WHO CARES IF I GET FAT?! I SURE DON'T!!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY?!
REALLY?
I'm already sick and tired of this world.
I HAVE TO EAT EVERY LAST ONE MYSELF, OR THEY'LL MAKE ME PAY FOR ALL OF THEM!!
DON'T TOUCH THOSE!!
GONG
HUH?!
YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK, THEN
SO I DON'T CARE ONE BIT THAT HE CAUGHT ME STUFFING MY FACE!!!
WHATEVER! WHO CARES IF HE'S STARING AT ME?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER!
STARE
THAT
STAND
YOU'RE SO GOING TO GET FAT
You're sticking out a bit, showing the flesh!
IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY, JUST SAY IT!!! JEEZ!!

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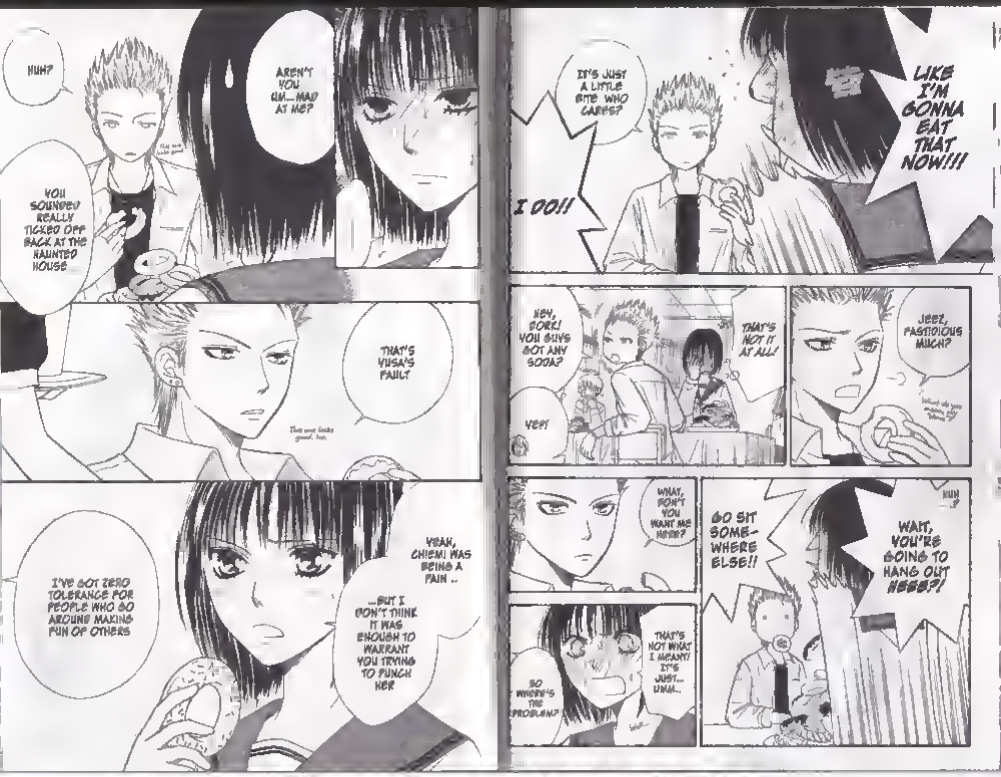
HUH?
AREN'T YOU UH... MAD AT ME?
YOU SOUNDED REALLY TICKED OFF BACK AT THE HAUNTED HOUSE...
THAT'S VIVA'S FAULT
I'VE GOT ZERO TOLERANCE FOR PEOPLE WHO GO AROUND MAKING FUN OF OTHERS
YEAH, CHIEMI WAS BEING A PAIN..
...BUT I DON'T THINK IT WAS ENOUGH TO WARRANT YOU TRYING TO PUNCH HER
IT'S JUST A LITTLE BITE WHO CARES?
LIKE I'M GONNA EAT THAT NOW!!!
I DO!!
HEY, DORK! YOU GUYS GOT ANY SODA?
YEP!
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
JEEZ, FASTIDIOUS MUCH?
WHAT, DON'T YOU WANT ME HERE?
GO SIT SOME-WHERE ELSE!!
HUH
WAIT, YOU'RE GOING TO HANG OUT HERE?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT! IT'S JUST... UMM...
SO WHERE'S THE PROBLEM?

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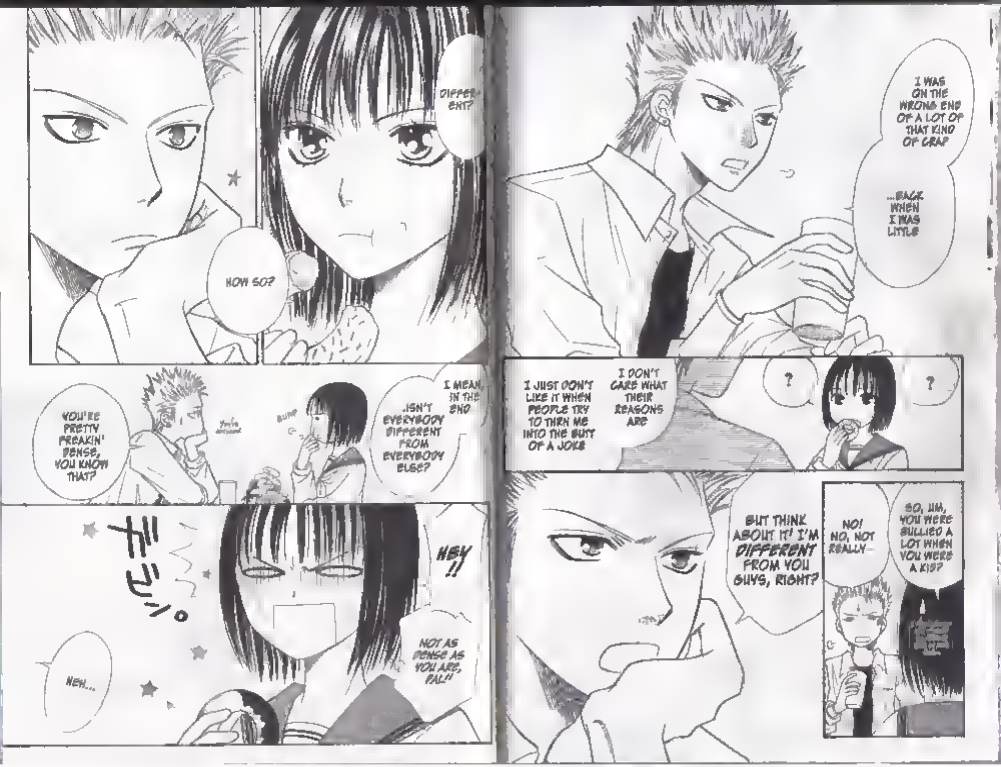
DIFFERENT?
HOW SO?
I WAS ON THE WRONG END OF A LOT OF THAT KIND OF CRAP
...BACK WHEN I WAS LITTLE
I JUST DON'T LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE TRY TO TURN ME INTO THE BUTT OF A JOKE
I DON'T CARE WHAT THEIR REASONS ARE
?
?
YOU'RE PRETTY FREAKIN' DENSE, YOU KNOW THAT?
You're serious?
Huh?
I MEAN, IN THE END
ISN'T EVERYBODY DIFFERENT FROM EVERYBODY ELSE?
BUT THINK ABOUT IT! I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU GUYS, RIGHT?
NO! NO, NOT REALLY--
SO, JIN, YOU WERE BULLIED A LOT WHEN YOU WERE A KID?
HEY!!
NOT AS DENSE AS YOU ARE, PAL!!
HEH...

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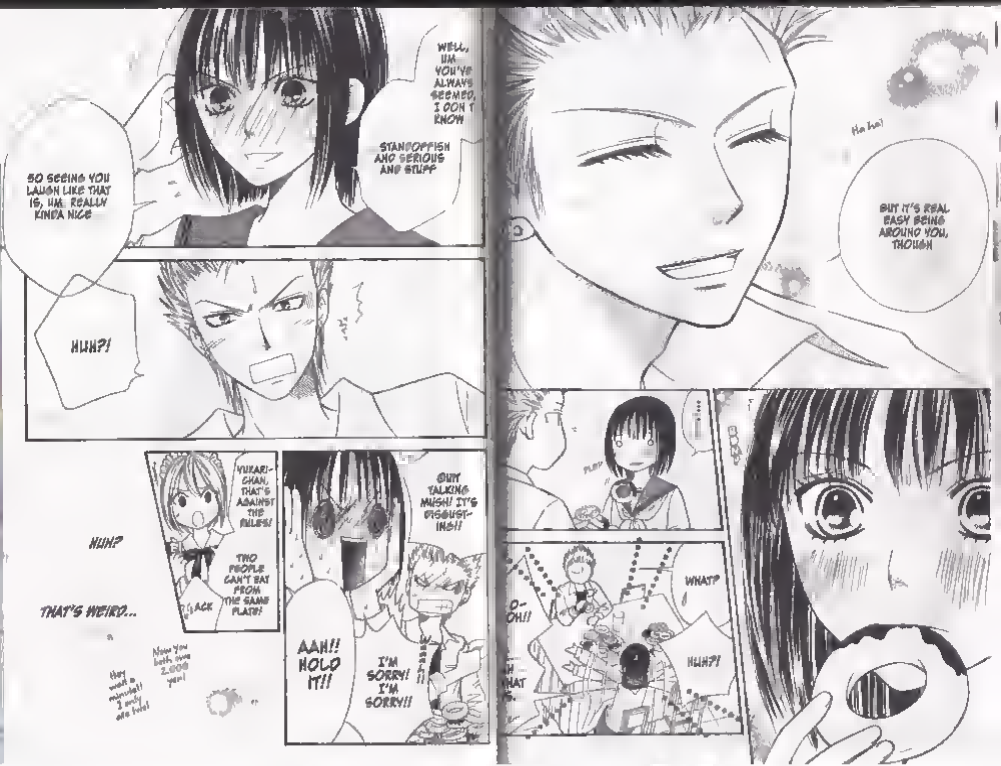
WELL, UM. YOU'VE ALWAYS SEEMED, I DON'T KNOW
STANDOFFISH AND SERIOUS AND STUFF
SO SEEING YOU LAUGH LIKE THAT IS, UM. REALLY KINDA NICE
HUH?!
Ha ha!
BUT IT'S REAL EASY BEING AROUND YOU, THOUGH
YUKARI-CHAN, THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES!
TWO PEOPLE CAN'T EAT FROM THE SAME PLATE!
HUH?
THAT'S WEIRD...
SHUT TALKING MUSH! IT'S DISGUST-ING!!
AAH!! HOLD IT!!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!!
PLAY
WHAT?
HUH?!
O-OH!!
Now you both owe 2,000 yen!
they made a mistake!! I only ate two!

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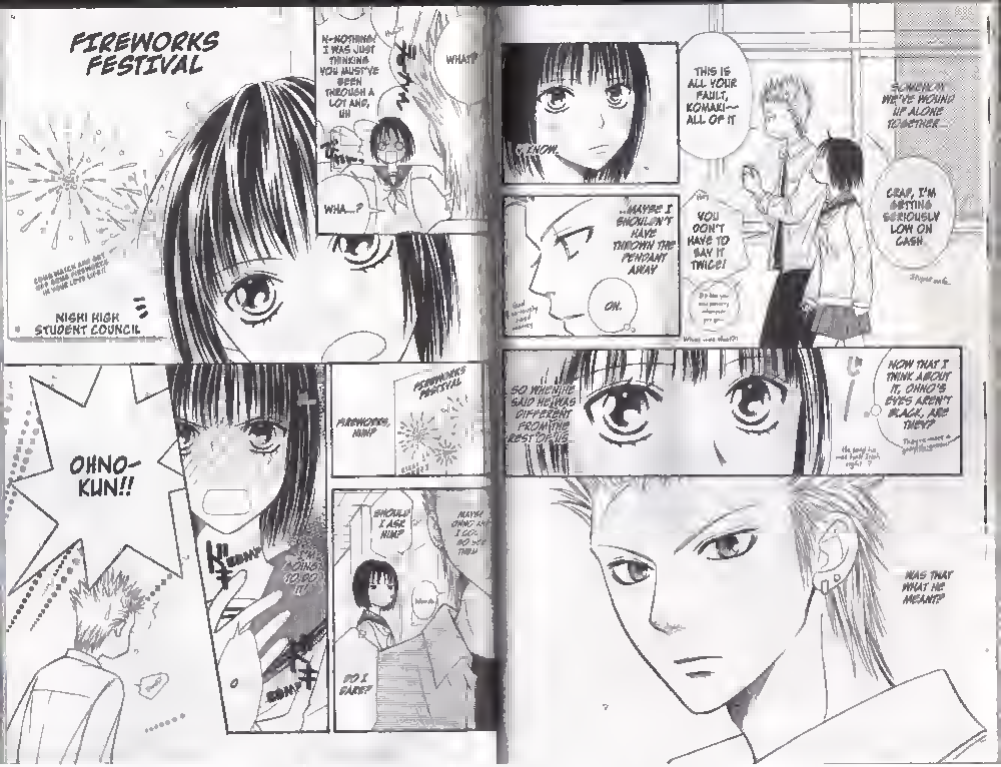
FIREWORKS FESTIVAL
N-NOTHING! I WAS JUST THINKING YOU MUST'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT AND, UH
WHAT?
WHA...?
EVEN MATCH AND GET SOME SUPPORT IN YOUR LOVE LIFE!!
NIGHT HIGH STUDENT COUNCIL
OHNO-KUN!!
I'M GOING TO GO IN!
RUN!
FIREWORKS, HUH?
FIREWORKS FESTIVAL
SHOULD I ASK HIM?
HUH? OHNO-KUN I GOT NO PLANS THEN
DO I DARE?
C'MON...
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, KOHAKI~ ALL OF IT
SO MUCH FOR WE'VE HOUND UP ALONE TOGETHER~
CRAP, I'M GETTING SERIOUSLY LOW ON CASH
...MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE THROWN THE PENDANT AWAY
OH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT TWICE!
SO WHICHIRO SAID HE WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF US
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, OHNO'S EYES AREN'T BLACK, ARE THEY?
WAS THAT WHAT HE MEANT?

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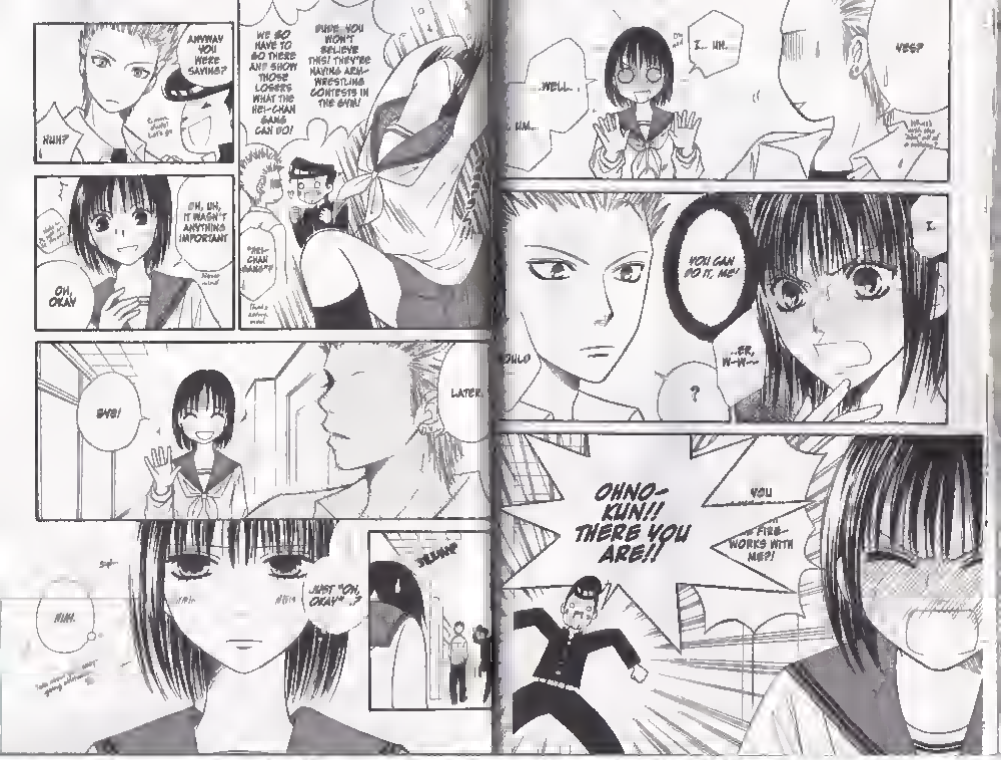

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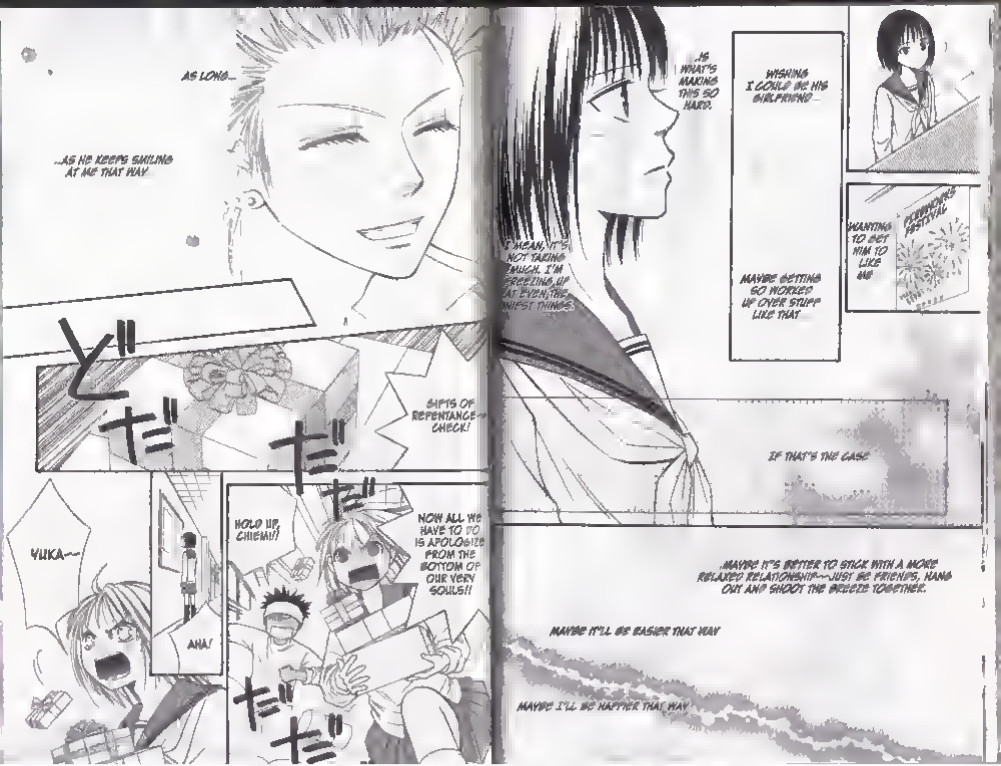
AS LONG...
...AS HE KEEPS SMILING AT ME THAT WAY
SIGNS OF REPENTANCE--- CHECK!
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS APOLOGIZE FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR VERY SOULS!!
HOLD UP, CHIEW!!
YUKA---
AHA!
AS WHAT'S MAKING THIS SO HARD.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT TAKING MUCH. I'M FREEZING UP AT EVEN THE WHITEST THINGS.
WISHING I COULD BE HIS GIRLFRIEND...
MAYBE GETTING SO WORKED UP OVER STUFF LIKE THAT
WANTING TO GET HIM TO LIKE ME
FIREWORKS FESTIVAL
IF THAT'S THE CASE
...MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO STICK WITH A MORE RELAXED RELATIONSHIP---JUST BE FRIENDS, HANG OUT AND SHOOT THE BREEZE TOGETHER.
MAYBE IT'LL BE EASIER THAT WAY
MAYBE I'LL BE HAPPIER THAT WAY

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FIREWORKS FESTIVAL
COULD WATCH AND EAT THE OTHER FIREWORKS IN YOUR LIVER STORE!
WANT TO SEE IF WE CAN DO SOMETHING WITH THIS?
HEY, HERE'S AN IDEA
YOU'RE NOT SO MAN WEAR OF YOURSELF! NOW CALM DOWN AND TELL ME!
I AM THINK-ING!!
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO THAT FOR!?
GYAAA!
AH!!
SHE WOULD'VE BEEN COMPELLED TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER SMACK IN THE MOUTH! AT THIS RATE PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE DELIBERATELY MAKING FUN OF THE WHOLE SITUATION!
Waaaah!!
What are you stupid!?
NOW YOU'VE GONE IT!! AND AFTER I WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF BUYING HALF A KOZEN DIFFERENT KINDS OF CAKES AND CANDIES FOR HER, TOO!!
IT WOULD HAVE WORKED WITH THE PERSONA, A FEARLESS LOVELY AND HONEYSUCKLING SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REJECT! SHE WOULD'VE BEEN COMPELLED TO FORGIVE ME!
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GO HOME AND CATCH SOME RERUNS ON TV
I ONLY SEE AN EMPTY SHELL WHICH COULDN'T ADMIT AN ACTION AND WHEN AND WHERE DO IT.
WELL, UM .
SIGHH
SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO, THEN?

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HM? THOSE ARE THE FIRE-WORKS?
LOOKS LIKE IF THERE WERE BOXES OF THESE IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM. SO I NABBED ONE
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
UH, PREPARATIONS TOOK A LITTLE LONGER THAN I EXPECTED
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
YEAH. THAT SUCKS. IT WOULD'VE BEEN COOLER IF THERE WERE SOME REALLY BIG FIREWORKS WE COULD SET OFF.
CRAPPY, HUH? THEY LOOK LIKE THE STUFF ANYBODY CAN JUST BUY OFF THE SHELVES
WHAT THE HELL, LET'S DO IT
IT'S... RISKY...
THWAK
FORGIVE ME, VIRGIL
CRACK CRACK
BLEAT
SHE'LL PROBABLY BE OUT FOR THE NEXT TWO HOURS OR SO.

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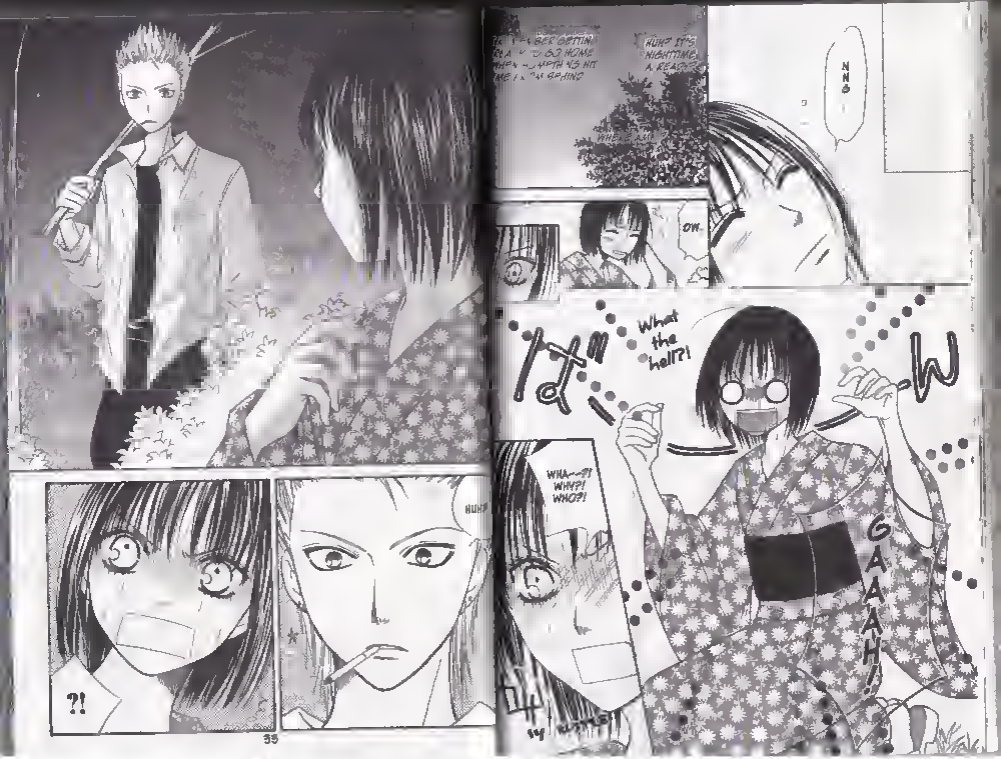

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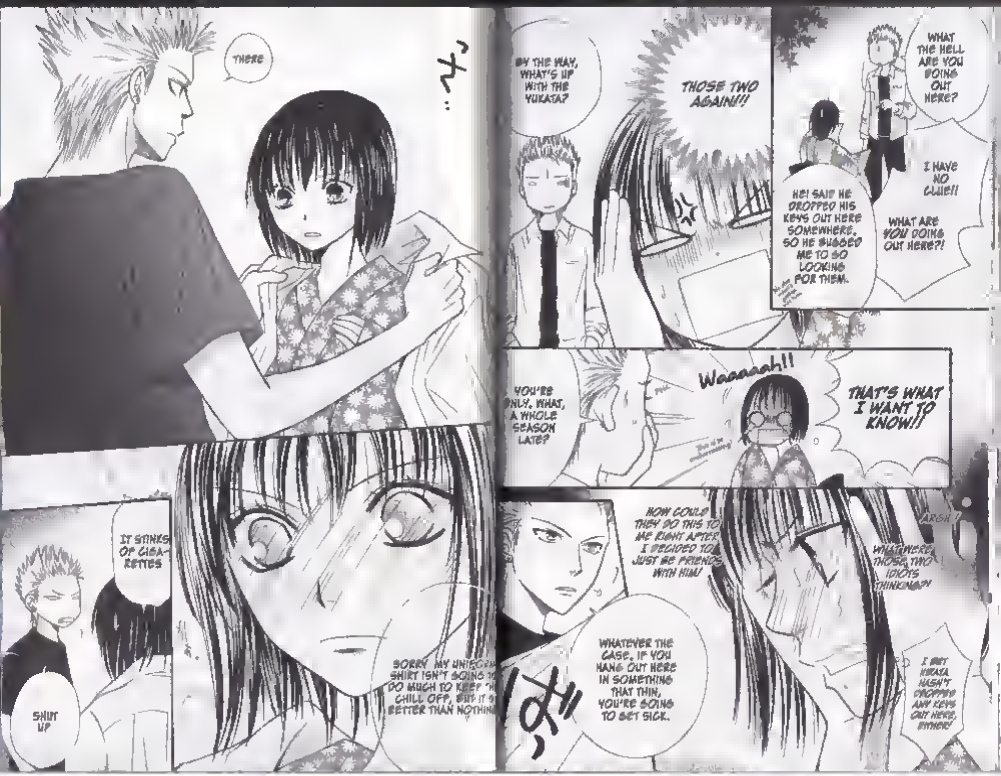
THERE
IT STINKS OF CIGARETTES
SHUT UP
SORRY, MY UNIFORM SHIRT ISN'T GOING TO DO MUCH TO KEEP YOU CHILL OFF, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S UP WITH THE YUKATA?
THOSE TWO AGAIN!!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
I HAVE NO CLUE!!
HE! SAID HE DROPPED HIS KEYS OUT HERE SOMEWHERE, SO HE BUGGED ME TO GO LOOKING FOR THEM.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?!
YOU'RE ONLY, WHAT, A WHOLE SEASON LATE?
Waaaaah!!
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!!
HOW COULD THEY DO THIS TO ME RIGHT AFTER I DECIDED TO JUST BE FRIENDS WITH HIM!
WHATEVER THE CASE, IF YOU HANG OUT HERE IN SOMETHING THAT THIN, YOU'RE GOING TO GET SICK.
WHATEVER, THOSE TWO IDIOTS THINKING ON
I DON'T KNOW, I DIDN'T DROP ANY KEYS OUT HERE, EITHER!

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TRIP
ACK!!
WAIT UP...!
NO WAY ANYBODY'S FINDING ANY DUMB KEYS NOW
ANYWAY, IT'S HALF TOO FLIPPIN' DARK OUT HERE
EH?!
I'M LEAVING.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY HEAD HOME, TOO.
SHEESH.
WOW, THIS SUCKS SO HARD!
AS EXPECTED OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT...
DO YOU ALWAYS NEED SOMEONE AROUND TO LOOK AFTER YOU?
BOM
POP POP
.. I USED TO HATE THE SMELL OF CIGARETTES.
YOU REALLY SHOULD QUIT
WHEN I TURN 20
V'KNOW
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING OFF SOME FIREWORKS OVER BY THE STAGE
WOW, PATHETIC-LOOKING, TROUBLE MAKER, AIN'T YOU SAY?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE SCHOOLS CAN PUT ON HUGE DISPLAYS.
BOM
BOM
HNK.

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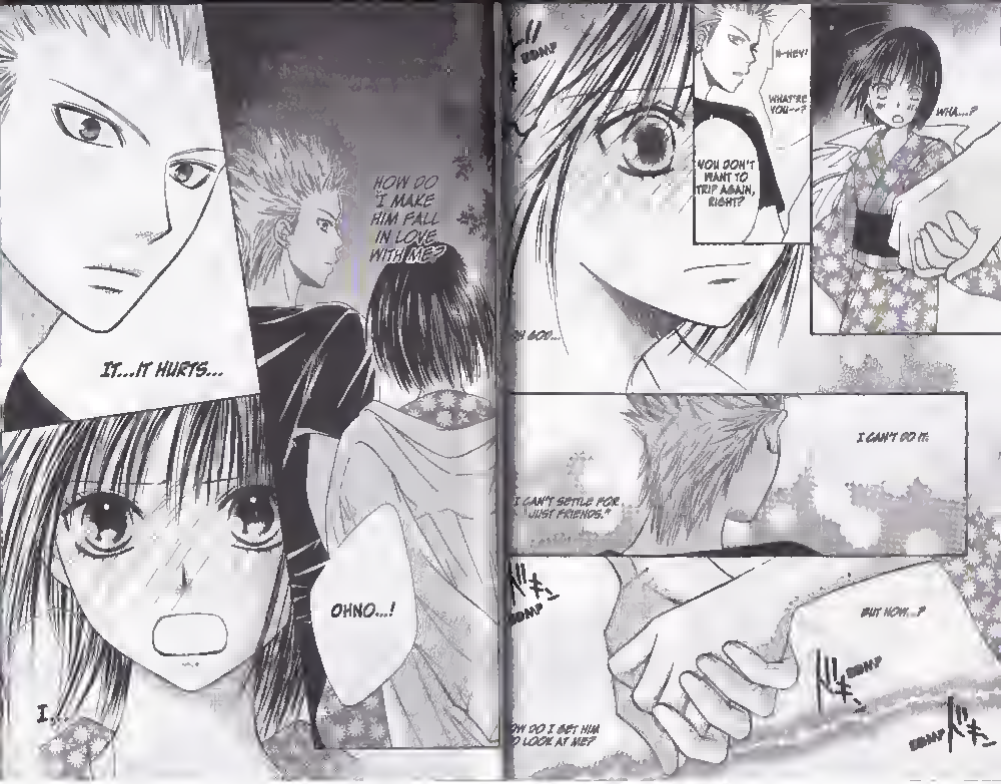

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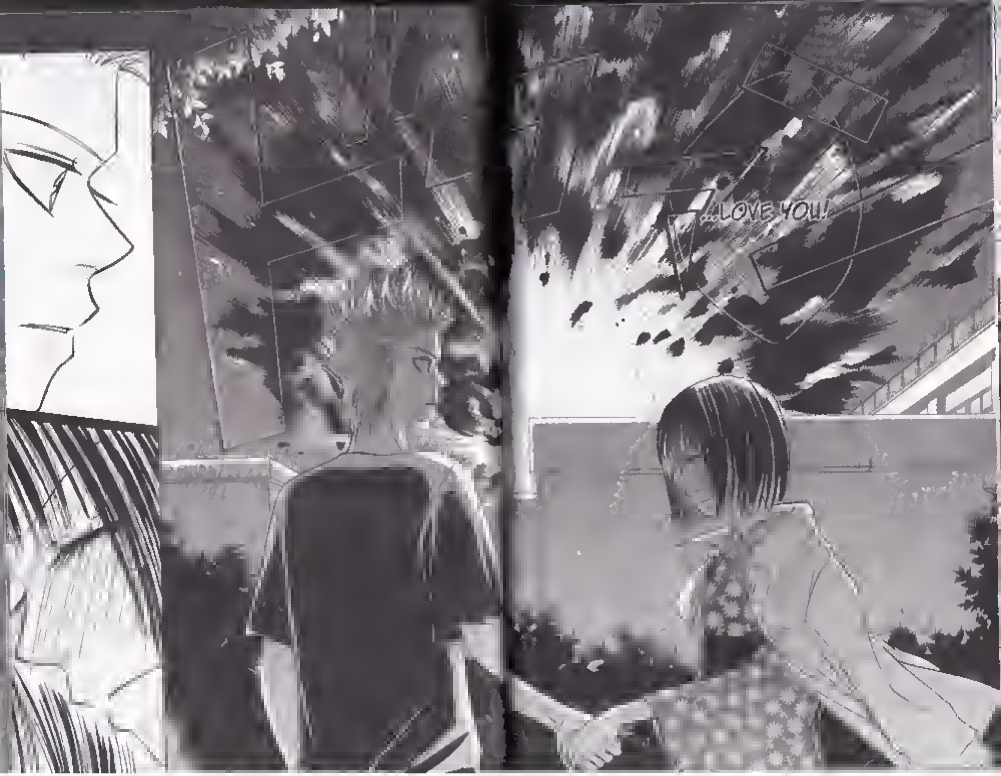

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!!
WHAT THE HELL?
HM?
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
YO, KONAKI! YOU OKAY?
YEAH.
WHY?
WHY ME?
IT'S NOTHING
WHY MUST IT ALWAYS TURN OUT THIS WAY?
ANYWAY, YOU WERE SAYING?
HM?
ARE THOSE THE KEYS OVER THERE?
じっ
HM? WHAT'S THAT OTHER THING ON HERE?
HEY, ISN'T THIS THE ONE I GAVE YOU A WHILE AGO?
AAACK!!
GIVE THAT BACK!!
GUUH! HE MUST KNOW NOW!!
IT'S N-NOT WHAT YOU THINK!! I WAS JUST USING THE ONE YOU MADE AS A MODEL TO TRY MAKING ONE OF MY OWN!!
I, UH, DROPPED IT EARLIER! THAT'S WHY I WAS OUT HERE I WAS LOOKING FOR IT!
THEN I THOUGHT TWO HEARTS AS A PENDANT MIGHT BE CUTE, SO I LEFT IT ON THERE!
HUNH.

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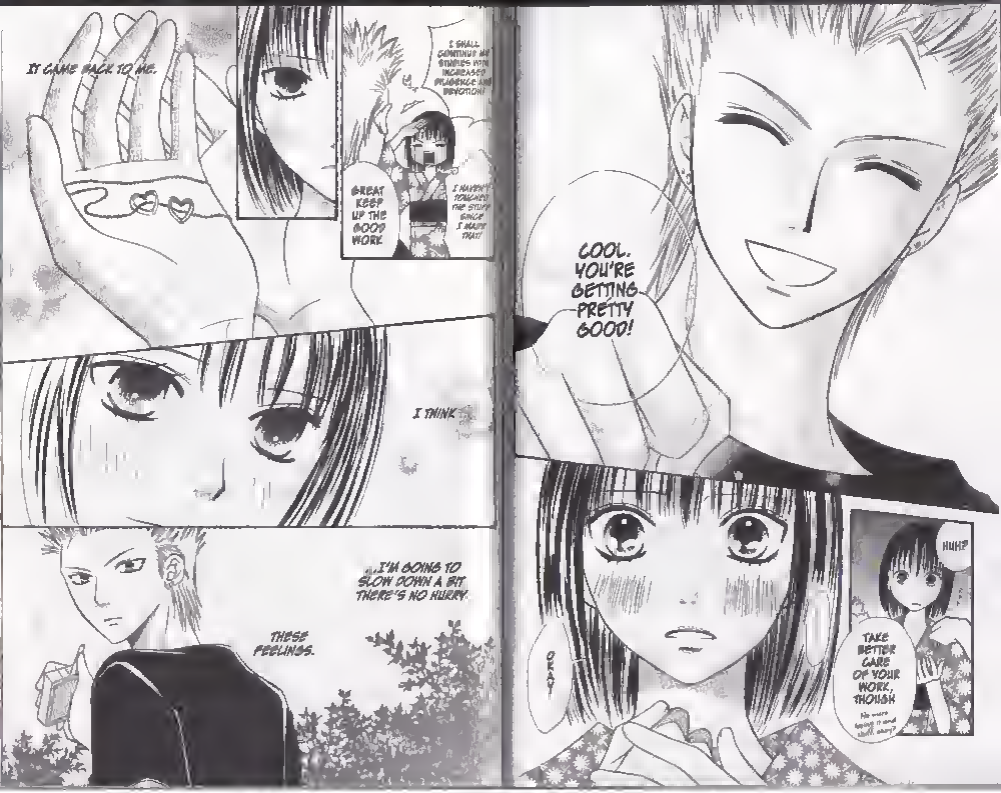
IT CAME BACK TO ME.
I SHALL CONTINUE MY STUDIES WITH INCREASED PLEASURE AND DEVOTION!
GREAT! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
I HAVEN'T TOUCHED THE STUFF SINCE I MADE THAT!
I THINK...
I'M GOING TO SLOW DOWN A BIT. THERE'S NO HURRY.
THESE FEELINGS.
COOL. YOU'RE GETTING PRETTY GOOD!
OKAY.
HUH?
TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR WORK, THOUGH.
No more losing it and stuff, okay?

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Ch. 10 Come to My House!

I HAVE TIME...
TO SAVOR IT
...THIS LOVE, ISN'T GOING TO VANISH OVERNIGHT
TEE HEE! ♡
WHAT?
MASTER PRAISED ME! ♡
"MASTER"? WHAT THE HELL?
I MEAN, IT SURE WAS FLASHY ENOUGH
IT DIDN'T TURN OUT SO BAD, THOUGH
DAMN I COULD'VE SWORN THAT WOULD WORK
KEH HEH HEH
THIS'LL CLEAR OUR SLATE WITH KOMAKI, RIGHT?
YEP! NOW WE CAN BE FRIENDS AGAIN!

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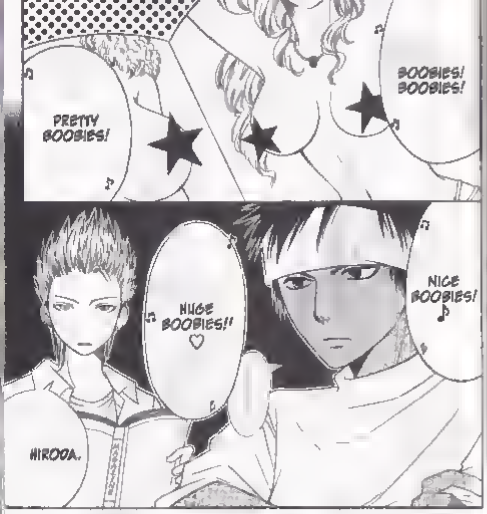

LOVE ATTACK

JUNAI TOKKO TAICHO!

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KNOCK IT OFF, WILL YOU?
IT'S OBVIOUS HE HASN'T DONE IT WITH HER YET
TWITCH
IT IS?
MAN, NO WAY!!
THE HEI-CHAN I KNOW WOULD NEVER THAT TIMID!
SHUT UP
REALLY?
IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS, RIGHT? WHERE A GUY GETS SO SERIOUS ABOUT A GIRL HE'S AFRAID TO TOUCH HER
MAN, HOW CAN YOU BE SO LUCKY, KEI-CHAN!
YOU CAN GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH THE REAL THING WHENEVER YOU WANT!
DON'T SHOW IT TO ME!!
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT, THIS IS ONE NICE KNOCKER!
OH, SORRY!
STOP FLASHING PORNO MAGS IN THE CLASS-ROOM!!
SHUT UP, DUDE. DON'T ASK DUMB CRAP LIKE THAT.
OH WOW, SO SINCE YOU MUST KNOW BY NOW...
...WHICH IS IT? IS VUSA A C-CUP OR A D-CUP?
GET OFF ME!
IT'S NOT DUMB!! IT'S NOT CRAP!! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!
TO REAL MEN, THOSE BEAUTIFUL, SOFT MOUNDS OF BLISS ARE THE STUFF OF DREAMS!!
AHEM! HEM! HEM! HEI-CHAN! MAYBE YOU AREN'T REALLY IN LOVE WITH VUSA AFTER ALL!
I MEAN, WHEN A GUY REALLY HAS A THING FOR A GIRL, IT MEANS HE WANTS TO GET IN HER PANTS THAT MUCH FASTER, RIGHT?
IF A GIRL TELLS HER MAN TO STOP, AND HE STILL CAN STOP, THEN THAT MEANS HIS FEELINGS FOR HER AREN'T THE REAL DEAL!
YOU BET I DO!
HMM. YOU HAVE A POINT
SHUT UP!!

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And today...
...and all today
THIS WEEKEND...
GRANNY'S TAKING HARU-CHIKA OVER TO A RELATIVE'S HOUSE THEY'LL BOTH BE GONE THE WHOLE WEEKEND
LEAVING ME WITH THE PLACE ENTIRELY TO MYSELF
YOU WERE HAVING THIS STUFF WAS PUMP ANY ALL, BUT YOU WERE STILL THINKING ABOUT IT, HUH?
SAKAI, MAN!
Grk!
THIS IS A CHANCE--NO...
...A HEAVEN-SENT OPPOR-TUNITY!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?! WHAT WILL I DO?!
DON'T CALL ME THAT!!
HELL, I BET YOU THINK ABOUT IT EVEN MORE THAN I DO, YOU CLOSET PERV!
OOOH!!
GOH, HE'S DUMB.
Fff
NOW LISTEN!! IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T WANT TO GET HER IN BED!
IT'S JUST THAT SOMETHING CREEPS UP AND KILLS THE MOOD EVERY SINGLE TIME!!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!
ACTUALLY...
NO NEED TO GO BALLISTIC, DUDE SHEESH.

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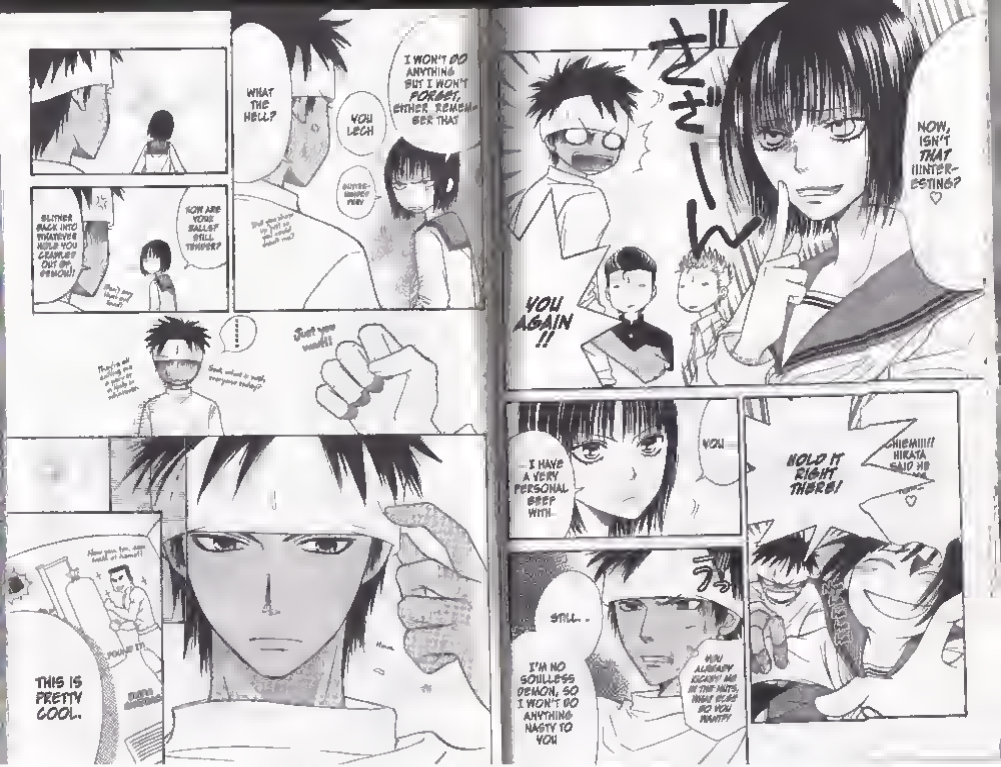
I WON'T DO ANYTHING BUT I WON'T FORGIVE, EITHER. REMEMBER THAT
WHAT THE HELL?
YOU LECH
SLITHER-SHOOT-WAY
But you have to just be content with that.
SLITHER BACK INTO WHATEVER HOLE YOU CRAWLED OUT OF, DEMON!!
HOW ARE YOUR BALLET SKILLS, TWINKIE?
Don't say that to me!
Shut your mouth!!
That's all nothing but a bluff, a ploy to distract us.
Look what is wait, you're your hobby?
THIS IS PRETTY COOL.
POWER UP
BAM
ざざーん
NOW, ISN'T THAT INTERESTING?
YOU AGAIN !!
...I HAVE A VERY PERSONAL BEEF WITH...
YOU...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
CHIEMI!!!! HIRATA SAID HE
STILL..
I'M NO SOULLESS DEMON, SO I WON'T DO ANYTHING NASTY TO YOU
YOU ALREADY ESCAPE ME IN THE HOTS, THAT ENOUGH DO YOU WANT?

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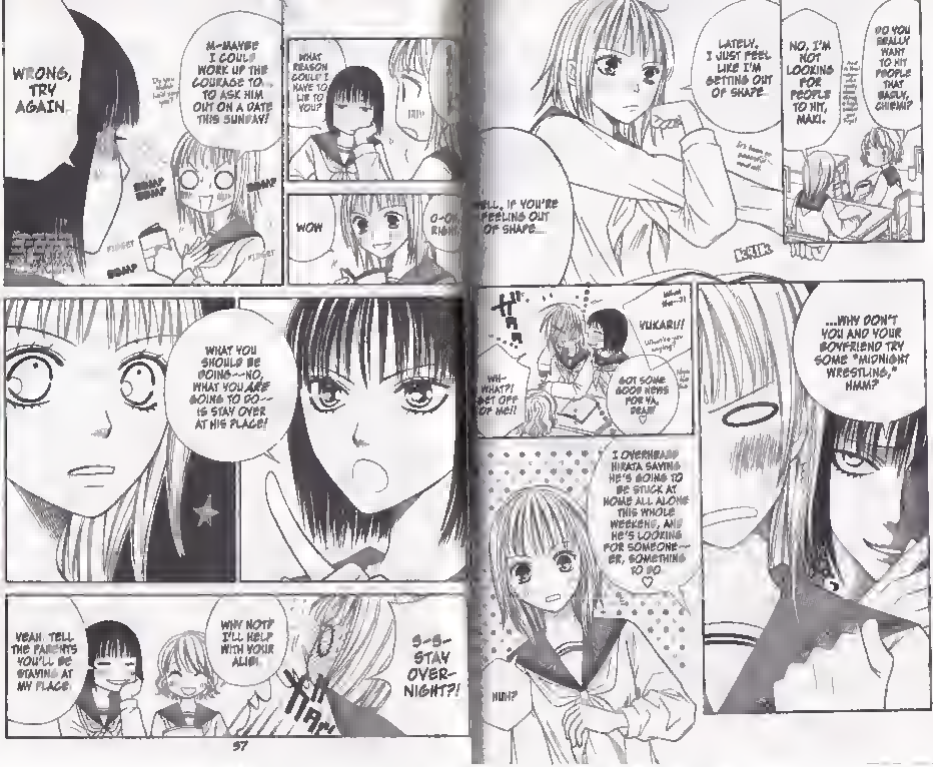
WRONG, TRY AGAIN.
M-MAYBE I COULD WORK UP THE COURAGE TO... TO ASK HIM OUT ON A DATE THIS SUNDAY!
SNAP SNAP
SNAP
WHAT REASON COULD I HAVE TO LIE TO YOU?
WOW
O-OH, RIGHT...
WELL, IF YOU'RE FEELING OUT OF SHAPE...
LATELY, I JUST FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING OUT OF SHAPE.
NO, I'M NOT LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO HIT, MAKI.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HIT PEOPLE THAT BADLY, CHIEMI?
WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING—NO, WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DO—IS STAY OVER AT HIS PLACE!
YUKARI!!
WH-WHAT?! GET OFF OF ME!!
GOT SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YA, DEAR!
I OVERHEARD HIRATA SAYING HE'S GOING TO BE STUCK AT HOME ALL ALONE THIS WHOLE WEEKEND, AND HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMEONE—ER, SOMETHING TO DO.
HUH?
...WHY DON'T YOU AND YOUR BOYFRIEND TRY SOME "MIDNIGHT WRESTLING," HMM?
YEAH. TELL THE PARENTS YOU'LL BE STAYING AT MY PLACE.
WHY NOT? I'LL HELP WITH YOUR ALIBI.
S-S-STAY OVER-NIGHT?!

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HIRATA-
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK HER ON A DATE FIRST AND THEN JUST CASUALLY ASK IF SHE WANTS TO COME OVER...
NO, WAIT! IS SHE EVEN ALLOWED TO STAY OVER AT SOMEONE'S PLACE?
CAN'T JUST WALK UP TO HER AND ASK IF SHE WANTS TO SLEEP OVER THIS WEEKEND!
SHE'LL THINK I'M ONLY DOING IT TO GET HER IN BED
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP
I... CAN'T
AND CAN BE A REAL TYRANT WHEN IT COMES TO ME STAYING OVER AT SOMEONE'S PLACE
SHE HAS A POINT
STAYING OVER, HUH?
I WONDER
WILL HE BE OKAY EATING DINNER ALL BY HIMSELF?
IF I WAS ALLOWED, THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO KEEP WATCHING THE TIME UNTIL ONE OF THE OTHER OF US HAD TO LEAVE.
WE COULD JUST RELAX AND BE WITH EACH OTHER FOR HOURS AND HOURS.
NOT THAT IT'LL EVER HAPPEN.
It's a little 4 years ago from the today. Now I'm going to go on break about a story part.
DAMN YOU, KOMAKI! HOW COULD YOU TELL HIM?!
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?!
S-SO WHAT IF NOBODY'S GOING TO BE HOME?
I, UM, I WAS WONDERING, MAYBE
HEY, UM...
O-OH, KEY!
SO, I HEARD FROM YUKARI THAT NOBODY ELSE IS GOING TO BE HOME AT YOUR PLACE ALL WEEKEND
13
KUFF
...IF YOU DON'T MIND
...I COULD COME OVER AND--
NUH?!
CHIEMI, HOLD IT!!

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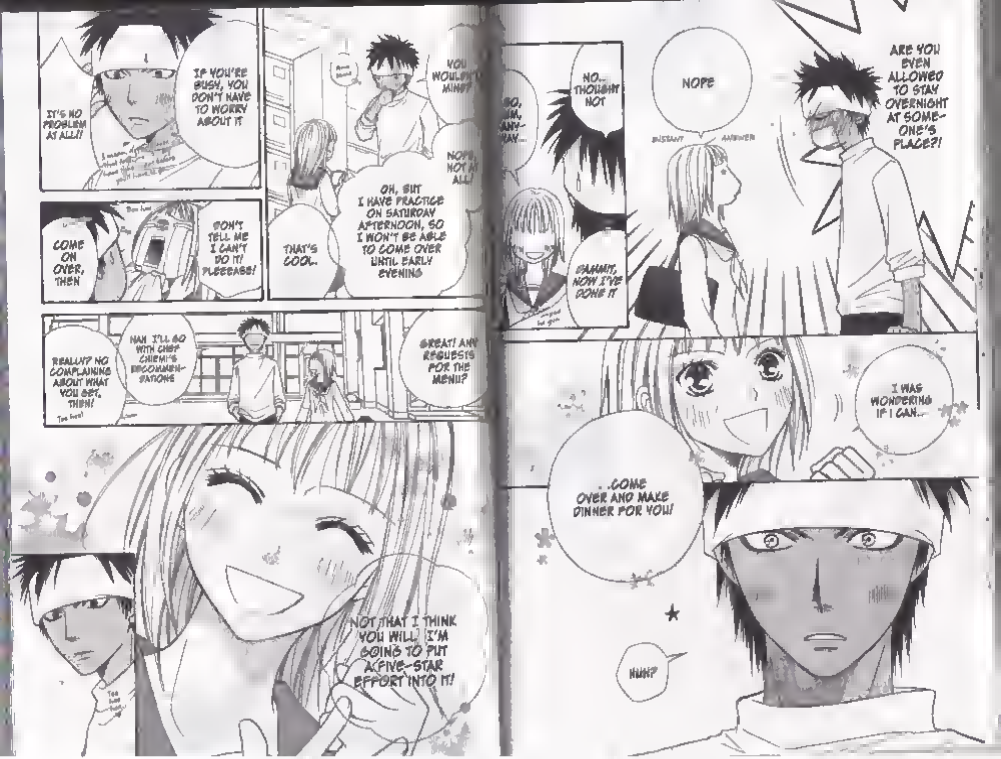
IT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL!!
IF YOU'RE BUSY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT
YOU WOULDN'T MIND?
NOPE, NOT AT ALL!
OH, BUT I HAVE PRACTICE ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME OVER UNTIL EARLY EVENING
THAT'S COOL..
COME ON OVER, THEN
DON'T TELL ME I CAN'T DO IT! PLEEEASE!
REALLY!? NO COMPLAINING ABOUT WHAT YOU GET, THEN!
NAH, I'LL GO WITH CHEF CHEMI'S RECOMMENDATIONS
GREAT! ANY REQUESTS FOR THE MENU?
NOT THAT I THINK YOU WILL, I'M GOING TO PUT A FIVE-STAR EFFORT INTO IT!
ARE YOU EVEN ALLOWED TO STAY OVERNIGHT AT SOMEONE'S PLACE?!
NOPE
INSTANT ANSWER
NO... I THOUGHT NOT
DAMMIT, NOW I'VE DONE IT
I WAS WONDERING IF I CAN...
..COME OVER AND MAKE DINNER FOR YOU!
HUH?

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HONEY, DAD IS GOING TO BE ON A BUSINESS TRIP TO KYOTO UNTIL NEXT TUESDAY.
BACK IN A FEW DAYS, DEAR.
HUH?
I'VE GOT TO GO ON A BUSINESS TRIP!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE LUGGAGE, DAD?
WAIT
WHAT?!
THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE
SLAM
SO, IN OTHER WORDS...
UM, MOM?
YEAH, THIS'LL DO.
IT'S NOT A STAY-OVER...
BUT SHE'S HAPPY, AND SHE'S THINKING OF ME
I'M HOOOME!

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I DON'T...!
I JUST
DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T REALIZE THAT.
!!
DON'T TELL ME SHE REALLY
CHIEMI!
あぁ あぁ
HEY, YOU'RE EARLY--
I GOT SO CAUGHT UP IN THE IDEA OF SPENDING ALL THAT TIME TOGETHER WITH HIM THAT I DIDN'T THINK!
?
DASH
I HAVE PERMISSION TO STAY OVERNIGHT!! THE DREAM HAS COME TRUE!!
I'm awesome!
I did it!!
...I GOT IT!!!
AND BY THIS TIME TOMORROW, YOU'LL HAVE TAKEN THAT ONE LAST BIG STEP TOWARD TRUE WOMANHOOD
NOW WE CAN JUST HANG OUT TOGETHER FOR HOURS AND HOURS WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT THE TIME!
THAT'S WHY!
I TOLD MOM I'D BE SLEEPING OVER AT YOUR PLACE.
You're quite cunning!
YOU'RE SLEEPING OVER AT YOUR BOYFRIEND'S PLACE, GIRL..
YOU DO KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, RIGHT?
HUH?
CHIEMI... DON'T YOU KNOW?

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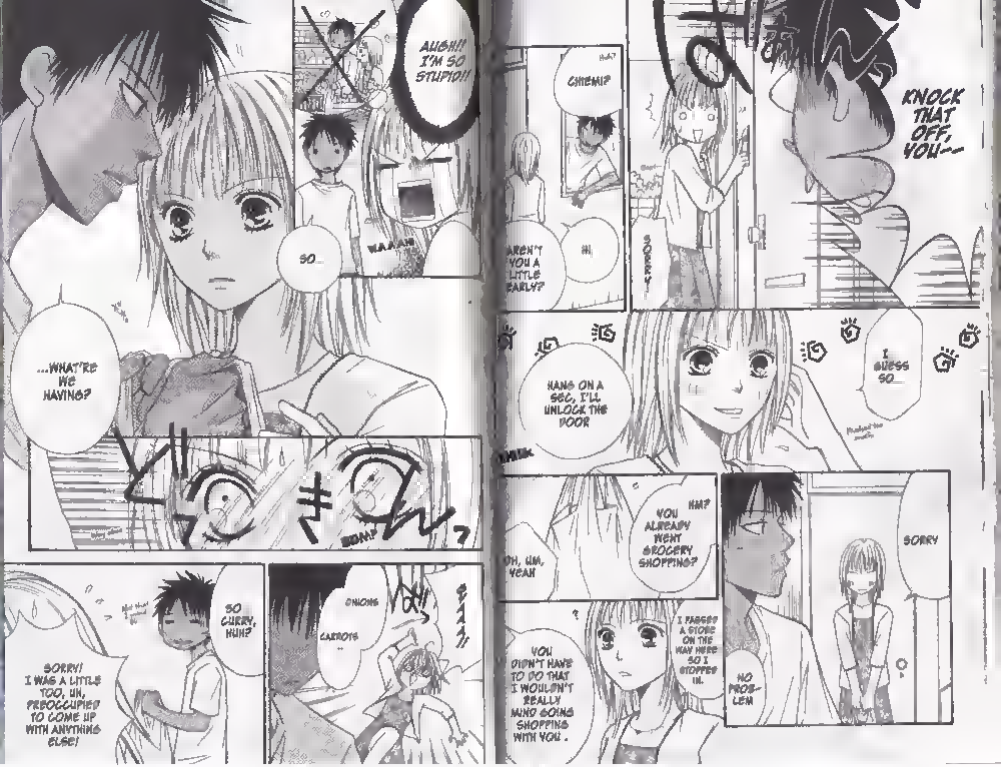

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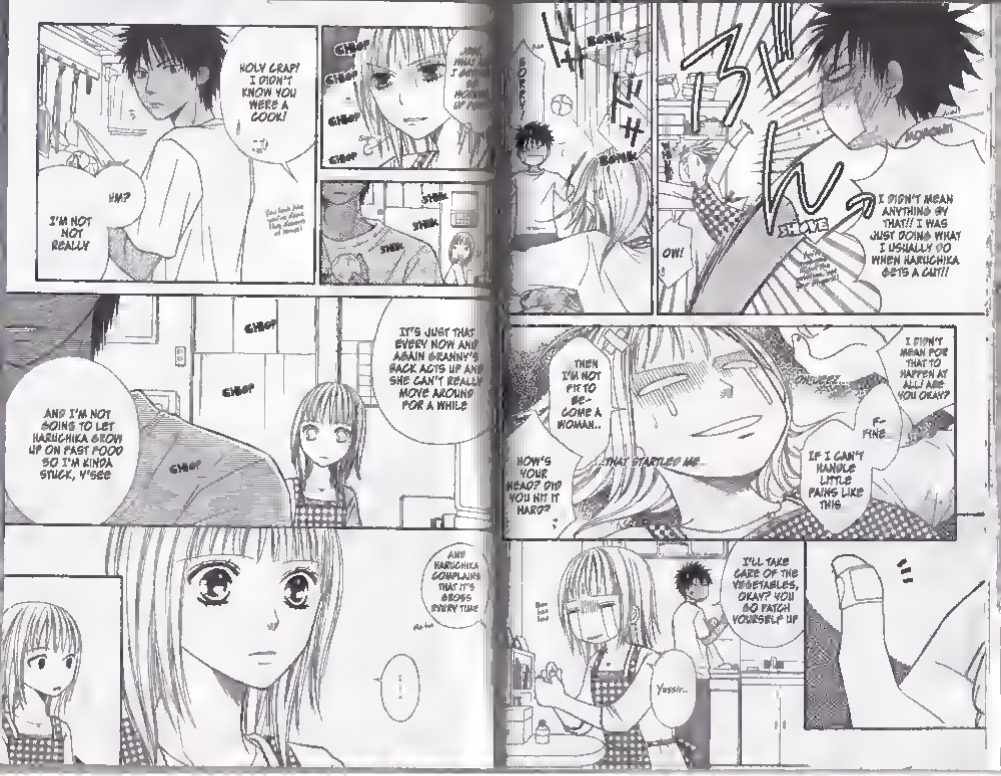
HOLY CRAP! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A COOK!
HM?
I'M NOT NOT REALLY
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
STIRR
STIRR
STIRR
AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET HARUCHIKA GROW UP ON FAST FOOD SO I'M KINDA STUCK, Y'SEE
IT'S JUST THAT EVERY NOW AND AGAIN GRANNY'S BACK ACTS UP AND SHE CAN'T REALLY MOVE AROUND FOR A WHILE
AND HARUCHIKA COMPLAINS THAT IT'S BROKE EVERY TIME
SORRY!
BONK
BONK
SHAKE
OW!
I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY THAT!! I WAS JUST DOING WHAT I USUALLY DO WHEN HARUCHIKA GETS A CUT!!
HOW'S YOUR HEAD? DID YOU HIT IT HARD?
THEN I'M NOT FIT TO BE-COME A WOMAN..
THAT STARTLED ME
ONLY?
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THAT TO HAPPEN AT ALL! ARE YOU OKAY?
F-FINE
IF I CAN'T HANDLE LITTLE PAINS LIKE THIS
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE VEGETABLES, OKAY? YOU GO PATCH YOURSELF UP
Yessir..

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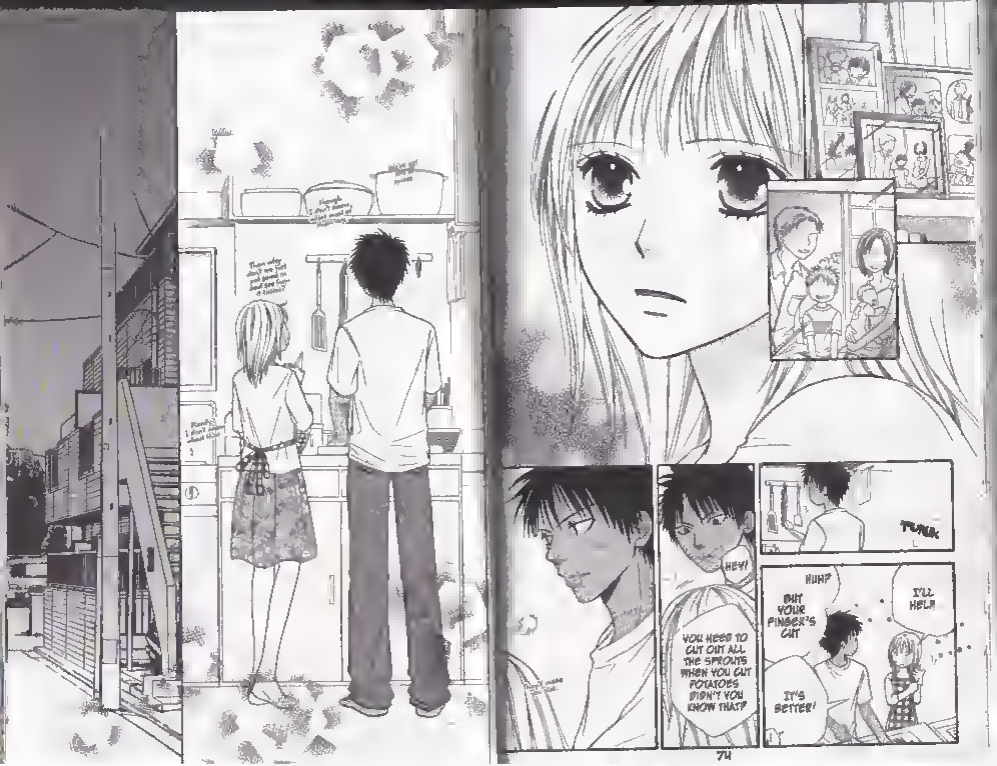

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SURE YOU HAVE!
PEOPLE WHO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT ARE ALWAYS THE ONES WHO HAVE CHANGED THE MOST!
I HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH SINCE JUNIOR HIGH, THOUGH
SURE
MY YEARBOOKS?
HOW CAN I LOOK AT YOUR YEARBOOKS INSTEAD?
YOU... HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!!
TOLD YOU...
AND THAT'S HIROOA.
Ha ha!
Oh, my god, he's got the worst crew cut ever!
HIROYA AND OHNO ARE WAY DIFFERENT THOUGH
THERE'S OHNO
YOU'RE EDITING! HE LOOKS TOTALLY DIFFERENT!
WOW! THAT WAS GOOD!
UH...
SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT... ANY-THING TO TALK ABOUT
OH
YEAH...
YEAH, THAT WAS GOOD!
UH...
OH.
WE HAVE A PEEK, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD THEY ARE...
WANT TO POP A VIDEO GAME IN?

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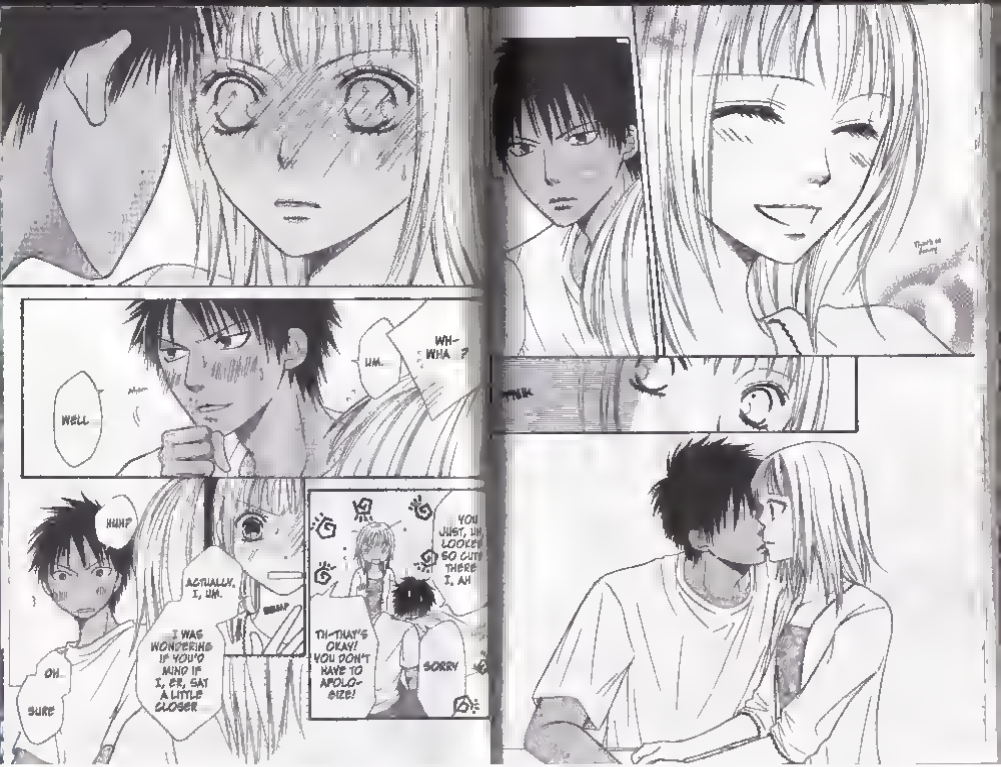

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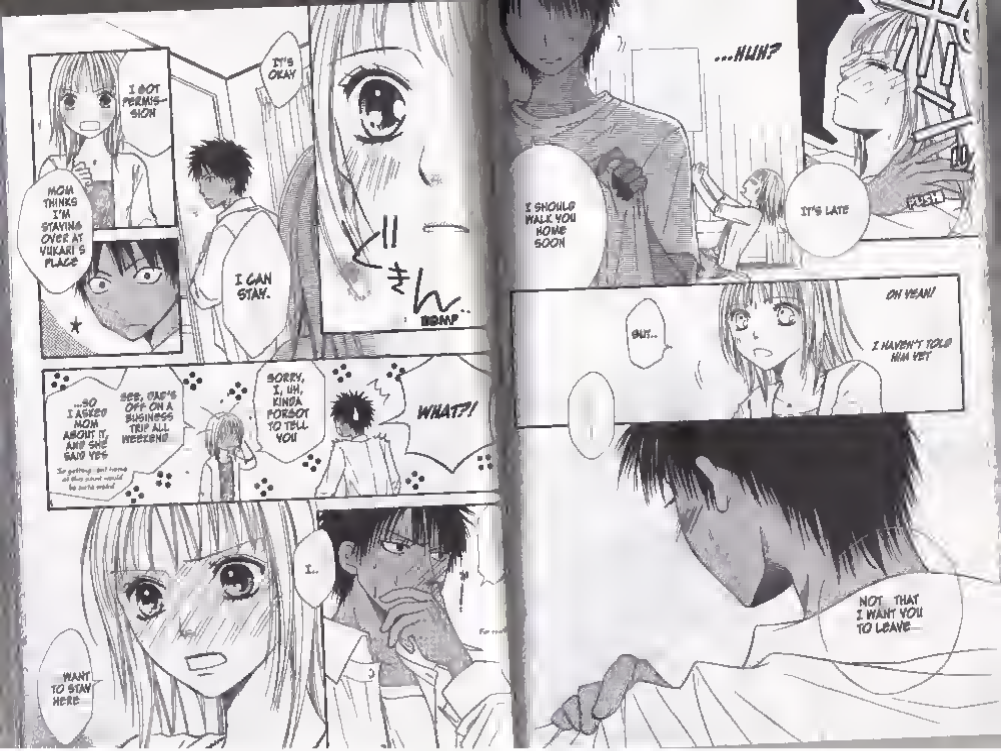
I GOT PERMISSION
MOM THINKS I'M STAYING OVER AT YUKARI'S PLACE
IT'S OKAY
I CAN STAY.
BSHP
...SO I ASKED MOM ABOUT IT, AND SHE SAID YES
SEE, DAD'S OFF ON A BUSINESS TRIP ALL WEEKEND
SORRY, I, UH, KINDA FORGOT TO TELL YOU
WHAT?!
I...
I WANT TO STAY HERE...
...NUH?
I SHOULD WALK YOU HOME SOON
IT'S LATE
PUSH
OH YEAH!
I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM YET
BUT...
NOT THAT I WANT YOU TO LEAVE...

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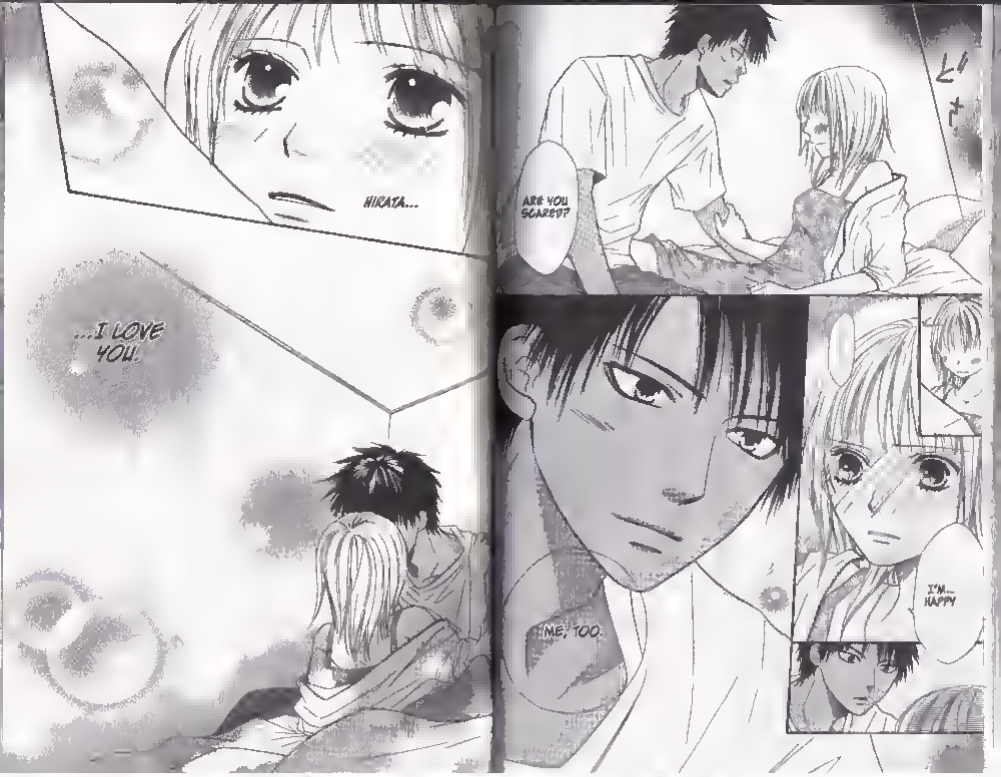

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LOVE ATTACK!

JUNGI TOKKO TAICHO!

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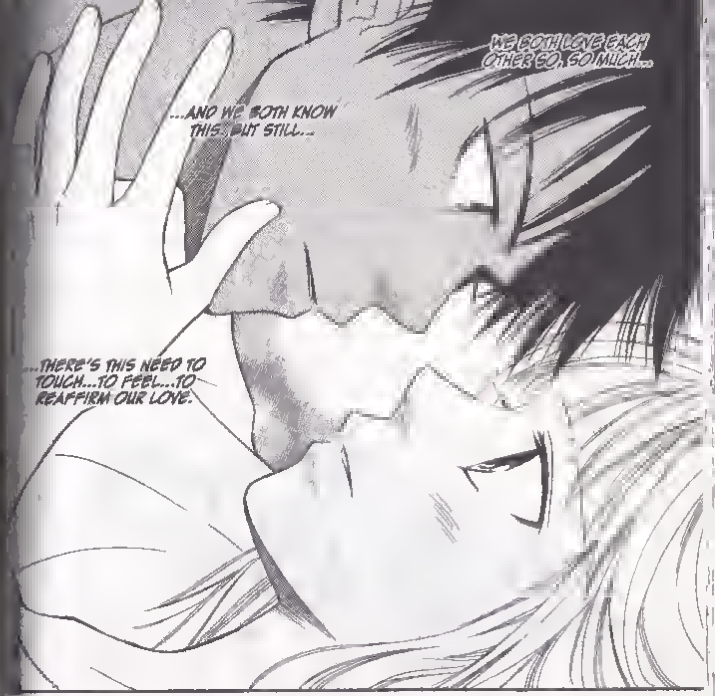

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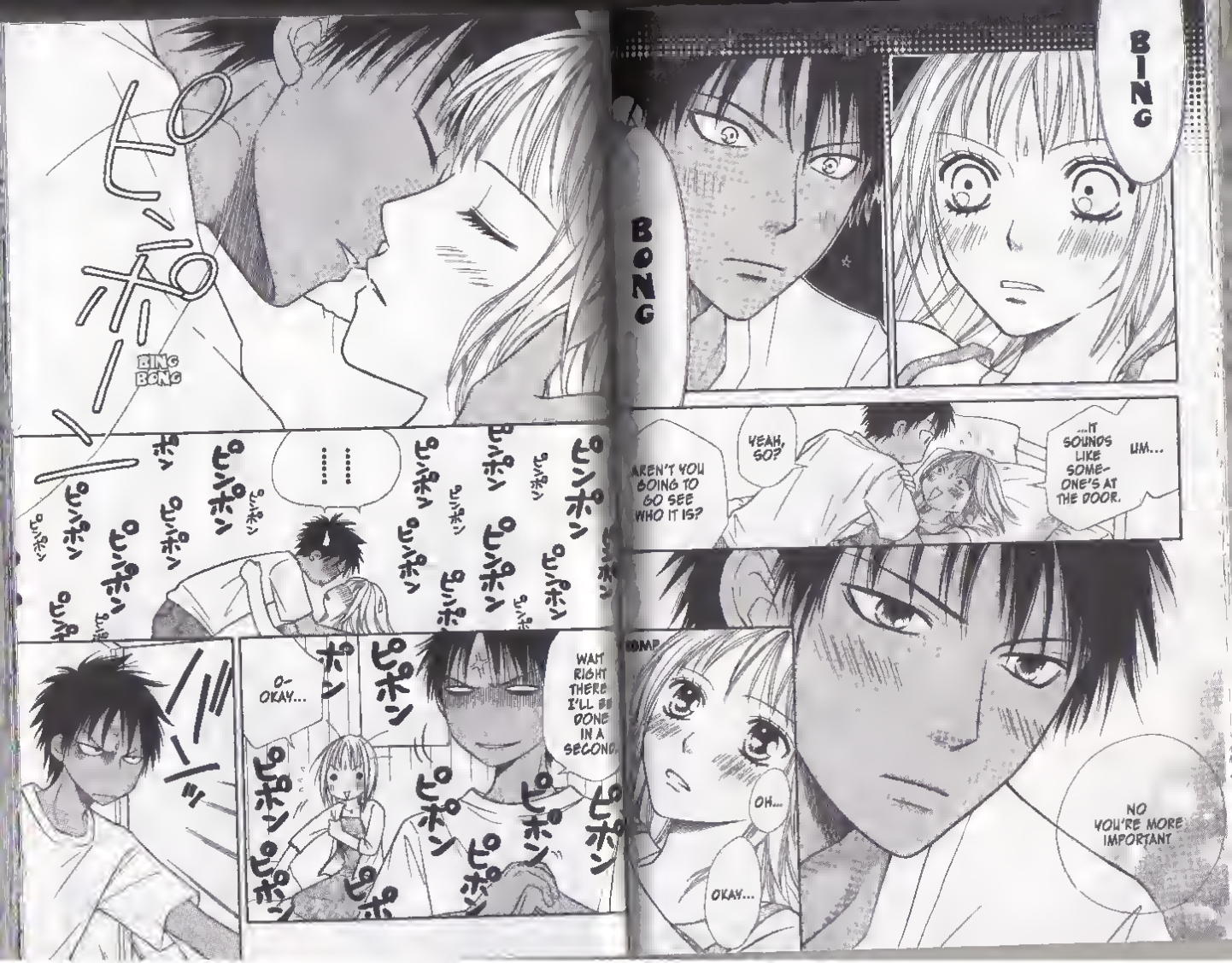

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OH, THANKS.
COME ON IN, MAKI! THE MORE THE MERRIER! ♡
HEY!! THIS IS MY PLACE, NOT YOURS!!
YUKARI?
HUH?
...IT'D BE KINDA WEIRD IF I WEREN'T WITH YOU, DON'T YOU THINK?
Heya Chrissy! ♥
Y'KNOW, I WAS TO THINKING A LITTLE EARLIER SINCE YOUR ALIBI HAS YOU STAYING AT MY PLACE
HEY THERE, YOUNG MAN!
HAVIN' AN ACTIVE EVENIN'?
WHOA, WAIT A MINUTE!! WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?!
Let's have a toast together!
OH, DON'T BE SUCH A BUZZ KILL. SEE? I'VE BROUGHT DRINKS AND SNACKS AND EVERYTHING. ♡
YOU CAME HERE JUST TO CRASH OUR NIGHT TOGETHER, DIDN'T YOU?!
<3
WHAT THE...?
HUH?
SORRY, MISS. I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE, SO WILL YOU PLEASE GO THE HELL AWAY?
Nnnnh...!
DON'T TELL ME I DIDN'T WARN YOU, BECAUSE I DID. I TOLD YOU TO REMEMBER.

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WH-WH-WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR!?
WHY SIT IN A DINKY LITTLE APARTMENT DRINKING ALL BY YOURSELF WHEN YOU CAN GO OFF TO A HOTEL WITH OHNO?
HEY!!
SO, GUESS WHAT? THIS IS MY PAYBACK!!
SO WHAT IF I DID?! YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?! HUH?!
I WENT THROUGH ONE HELLUVA LOT OF EMOTIONAL TRAUMA THANKS TO YOU TWO LOVE-DRUNK MORONS!
SHE'S STILL MAD ABOUT THAT...
BING BONG
I DID TRY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HER?
UHM, MAKI?
He lives close by, so he'll be here any minute. And I'm serious I want you out
...I, HIRODA-SAMA, HAVE ARRIVED!!
FLYING TO THY SIDE THIS MOMENT THOU DIDST CALL MY NAME...
WE'LL JUST SIT OVER HERE AND QUIETLY ENJOY OUR SNACKS.
ANYWAY, WE WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY ANYMORE, SO FEEL FREE TO GO BACK TO WHATEVER IT WAS YOU WERE DOING
AAH, WELL, THAT WAS SOME NICE REVENGE I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER NOW.

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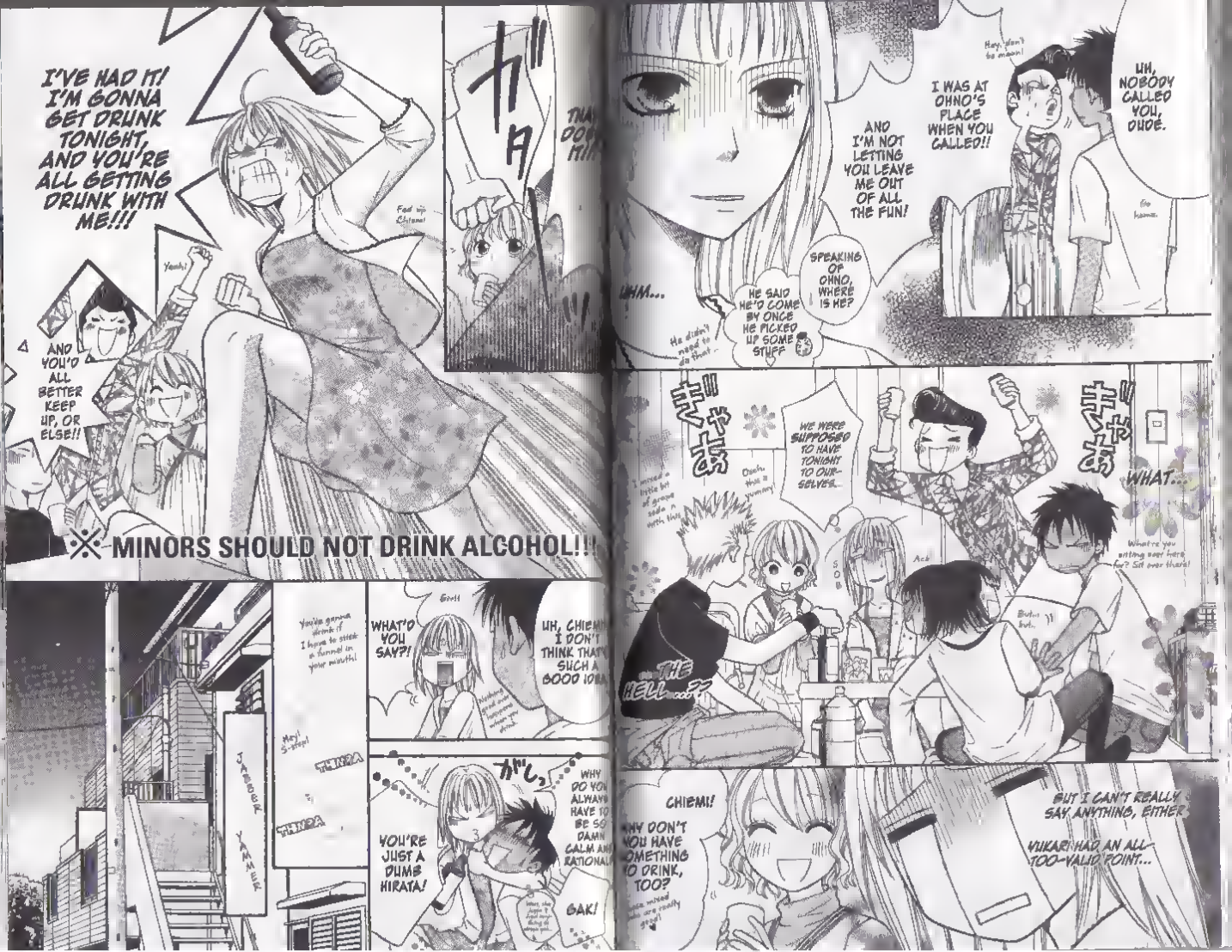
I'VE HAD IT! I'M GONNA GET DRUNK TONIGHT, AND YOU'RE ALL GETTING DRUNK WITH ME!!!
Fed up Chiemi!
Yeah!
AND YOU'D ALL BETTER KEEP UP, OR ELSE!!
※ MINORS SHOULD NOT DRINK ALCOHOL!!!
カタ
UHM...
HE SAID HE'D COME BY ONCE HE PICKED UP SOME STUFF
He didn't need to do that...
SPEAKING OF OHNO, WHERE IS HE?
AND I'M NOT LETTING YOU LEAVE ME OUT OF ALL THE FUN!
I WAS AT OHNO'S PLACE WHEN YOU CALLED!!
Hey, don't be mean!
UH, NOBODY CALLED YOU, DUDE.
Go home.
WHAT...
What're you sitting over here for? Sit over there!
Aah, this is yummy!
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE TONIGHT TO OURSELVES...
I mixed a little bit of ground soda in with this.
SOB
Aah
But... but...
THE HELL...??
CHIEMI!
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DRINK, TOO?
Juice mixed with soda are really good!
BUT I CAN'T REALLY SAY ANYTHING, EITHER...
YUKARI HAD AN ALL-TOO-VALID POINT...
You're gonna drink if I have to stick a funnel in your mouth!
Hey! S-stop!
THUMP
THUMP
JAPANESE APARTMENT
Gosh!
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
Wakana and Yuki improved when you drank.
UH, CHIEMI, I DON'T THINK THAT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA...
がし
YOU'RE JUST A DUMB HIRATA!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO DAMN CALM AND RATIONAL!
Man, she's just mad 'cause I'm not drunk yet.
GAK!

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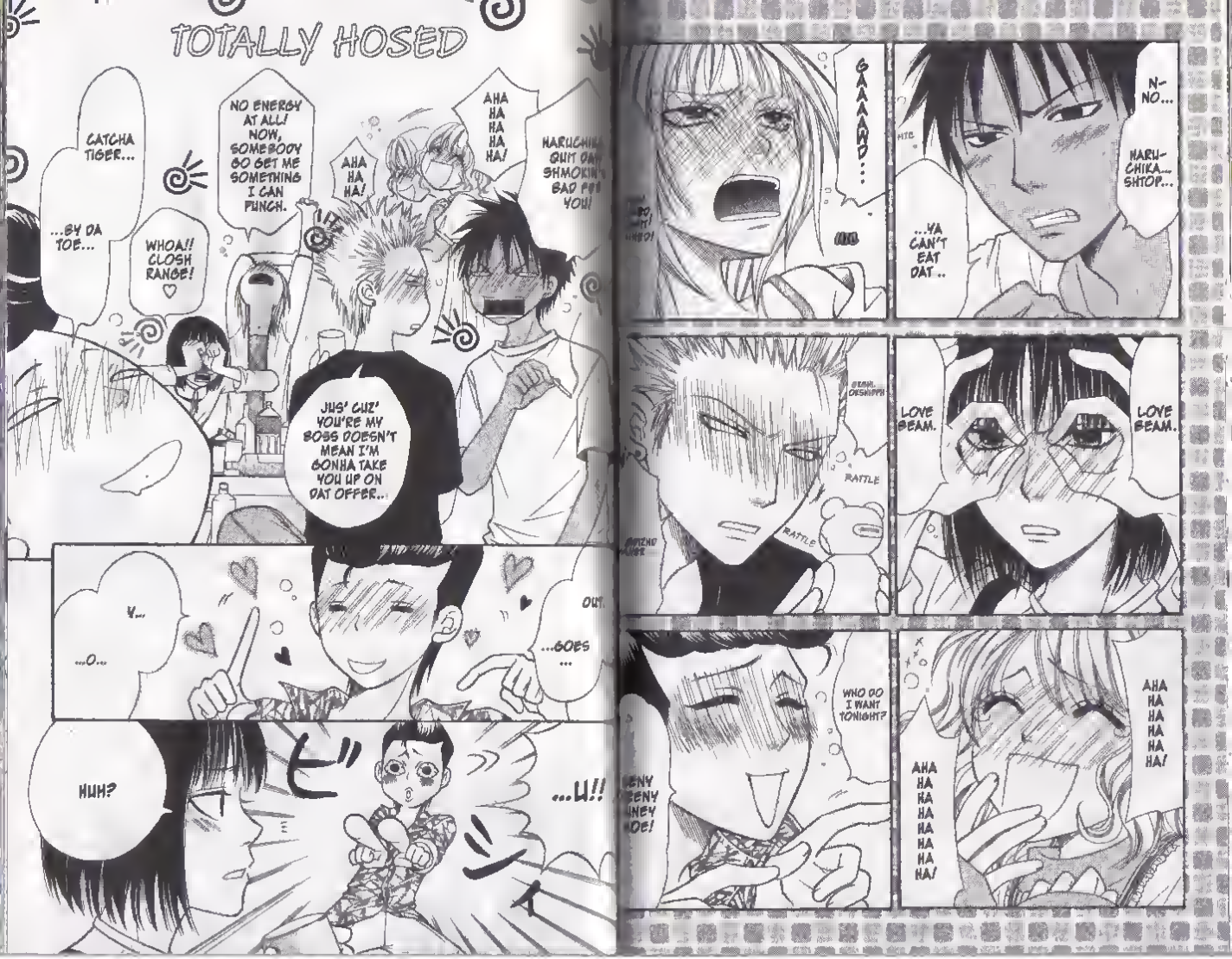

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THANK YOU!
Tee hee!
YER REALLY CUTE, Y'KNOW THAT?
SO HOW 'BOUT LETTIN' ME HAVE SOME MAD MONKEY LOVE, HM?
MAKI-SHAN MAKI-SHAN
YESH?
JUSHT KIDO--
AHA HA HA HA HA!!!
WHY'S EVERYBODY BEIN' SO MEAN TO ME? IT'S NOT FAIR!!
WON'T ANYBODY GIMME ANY HOT LOVIN'?! I'LL EVEN TAKE YUSA NOW!!
MY HAIR!!! MY PERFECT HAIR!!! 'S BEEN BENT!!
GIMME SOME LOVIN', KOMAKI !!
GAAAH!!
.....
HUH?
D-DIDJA DO ALL THAT... FER ME?!
.....

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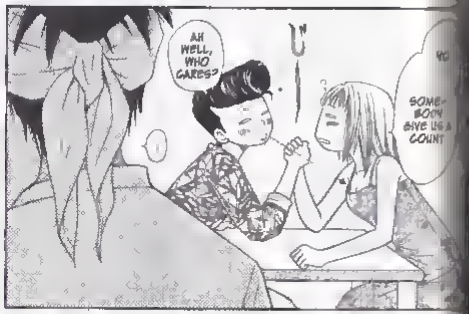
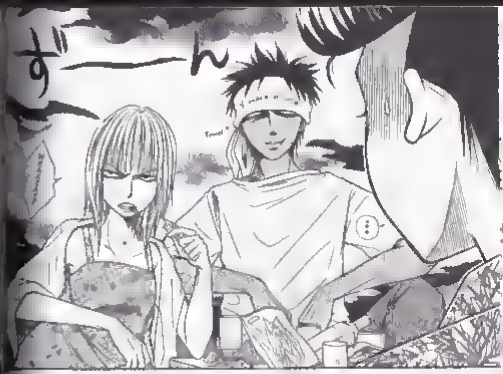
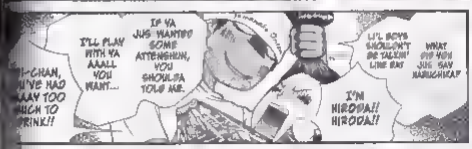
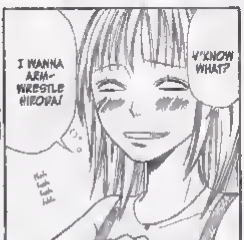





I'LL PLAY WITH YA AAALL YOU WANT...
IF YA JUS WANTED SOME ATTENSHUN, YOU SHOULSA TOLD ME.
LI'L BOYS SHOULDN'T BE TALKIN' LIKE DAT
WHAT DID YOU JUS SAY HARUCHIKA?
I'M HIRODA!! HIRODA!!



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WHAGGA MATTER, DERANGED DEVIL? YOU TURNIN' INTO A PUSHOVER?
YOU GOT A WOMAN MAKIN' YOU SO SOFT OR SOMETHIN'?
HE DOES! YOU!!
CHIEMI, YOU IDIOT!
CH-CHIEMI! STOP THAT!
WHASSIS? GOIN NIGHTY-NIGHT ALREADY HIRATA-SAN?
GET UP 'N PLAY WITH ME SOME MORE.

WAUGH!!
WHAT THE...?
COULDA SWORN I JUST SAW 'IM A LITTLE TAP
BUT HE FLEW LIKE SOME STUPID FEATHER-WEIGHT...
KAPOW
...I'M NOT HARU-CHIKA, Y'HEAR?!

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I'LL BE DRUNKEN-MASTER ON YOUR ASS!!
YOU! TRYIN' TO STEAL'T SOMETHIN' WIT' ME, CHIBIKI?!
BRING IT ON!!
HEE HEE! THEY'RE SO SILLY!
STOP OUTSIDE, DOPE!
AAA:
HAAAA:
WHAT'SH YER PROBLEM, HIRATA?! YA HAVEN'T THROWN A SINGLE PUNCH YET!
YA SOME SORTA MASOCHIST? YA LIKE GETTIN' THE CRAP BEAT OUTTA YA?
WELL, THAT'S DAMN RUDE TO YOUR OPPONENT, Y'KNOW DAT?!
ANYBODY KNOW HOW LONG THOSE TWO ARE GONNA BE AT IT?
HM, GUYS?
PEK!
SHRINE
DRAGON

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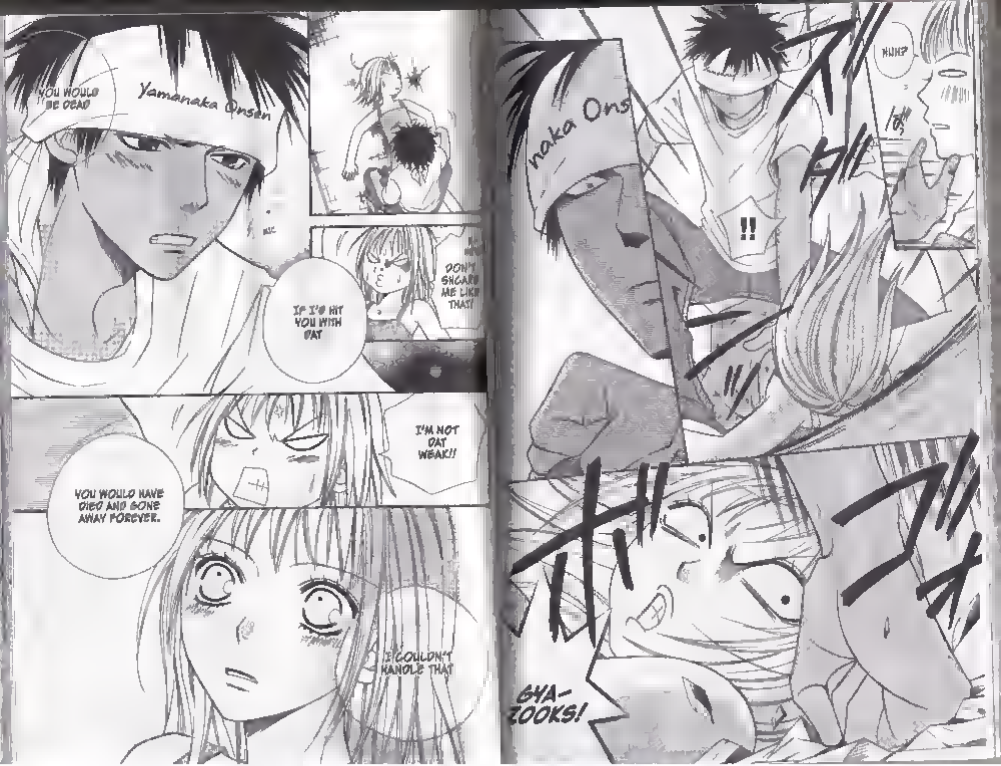

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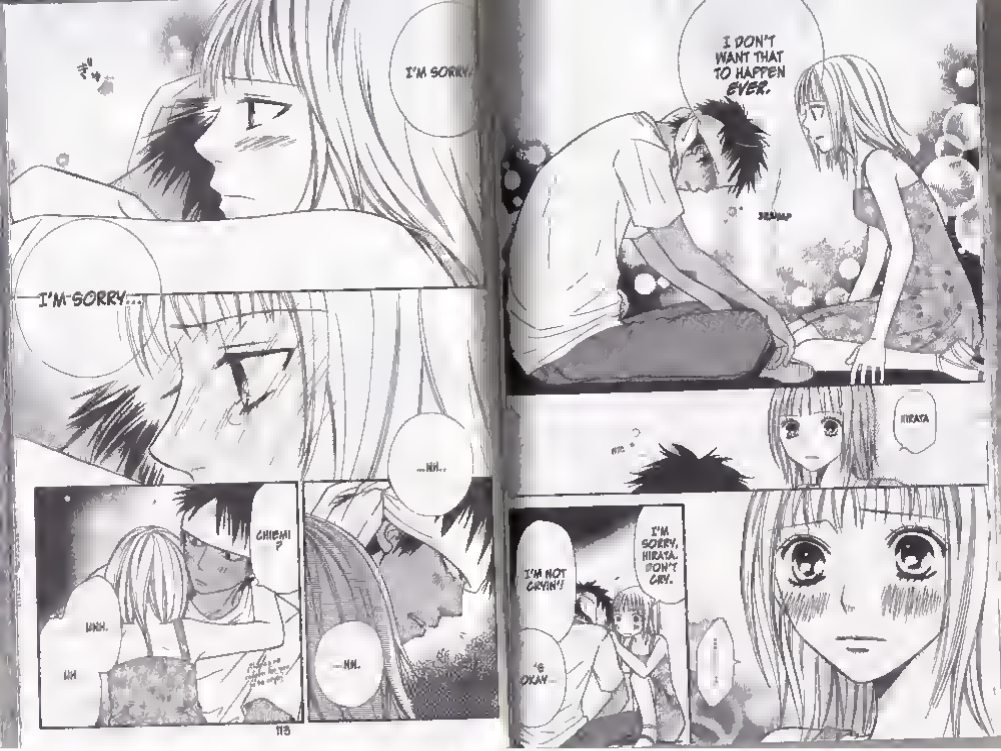

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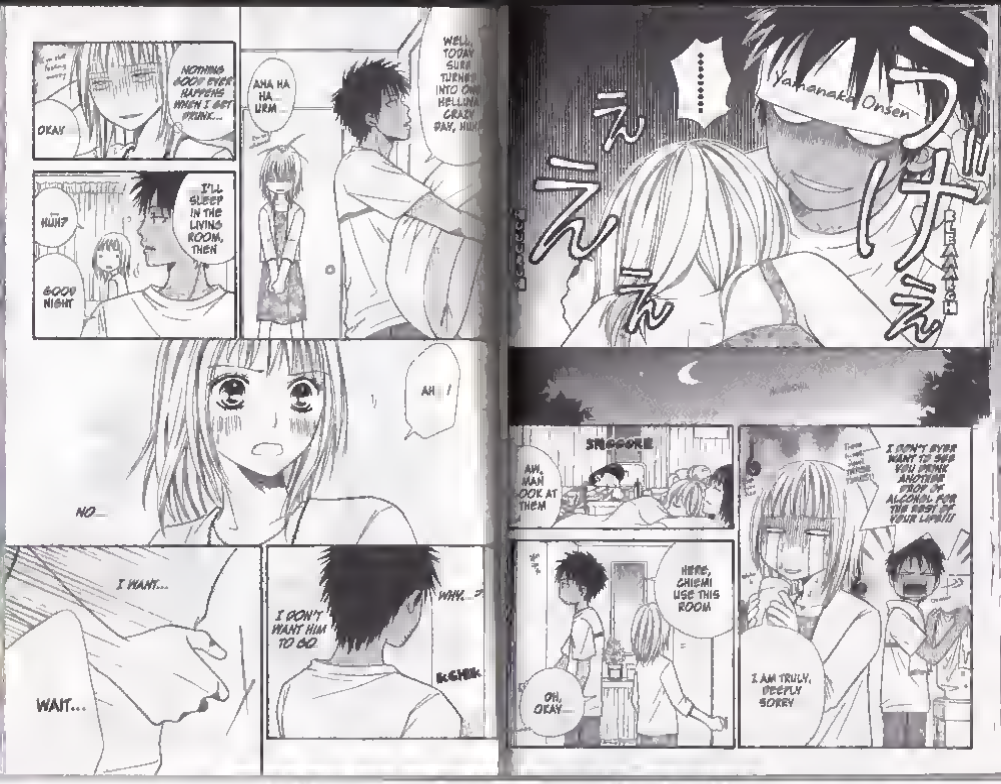

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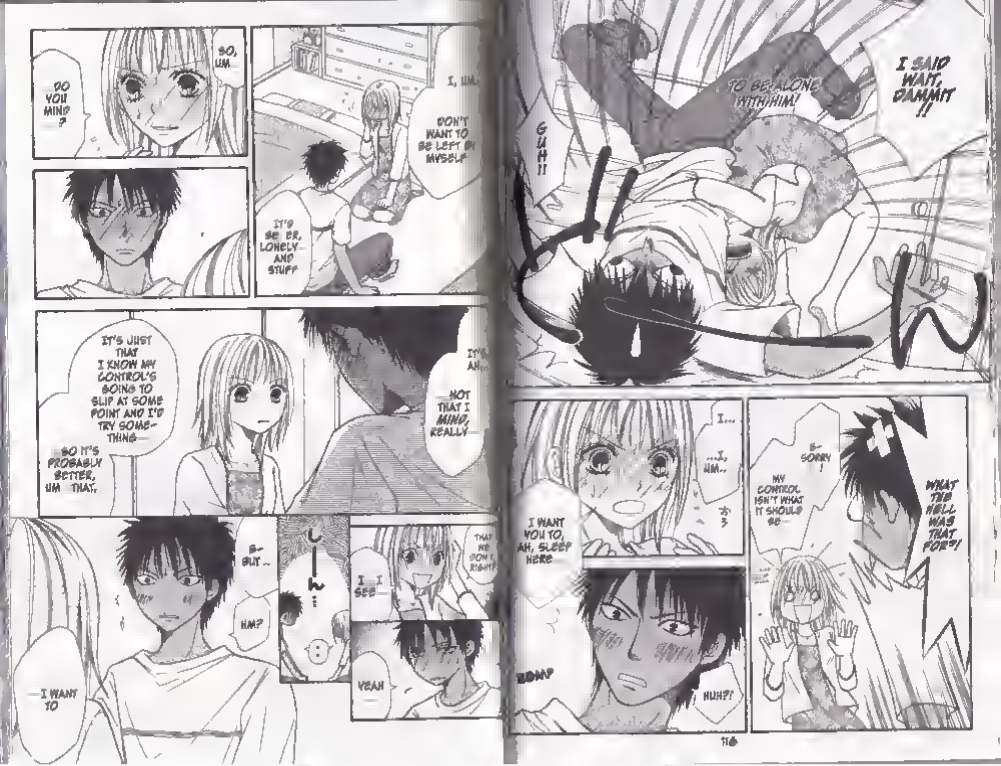

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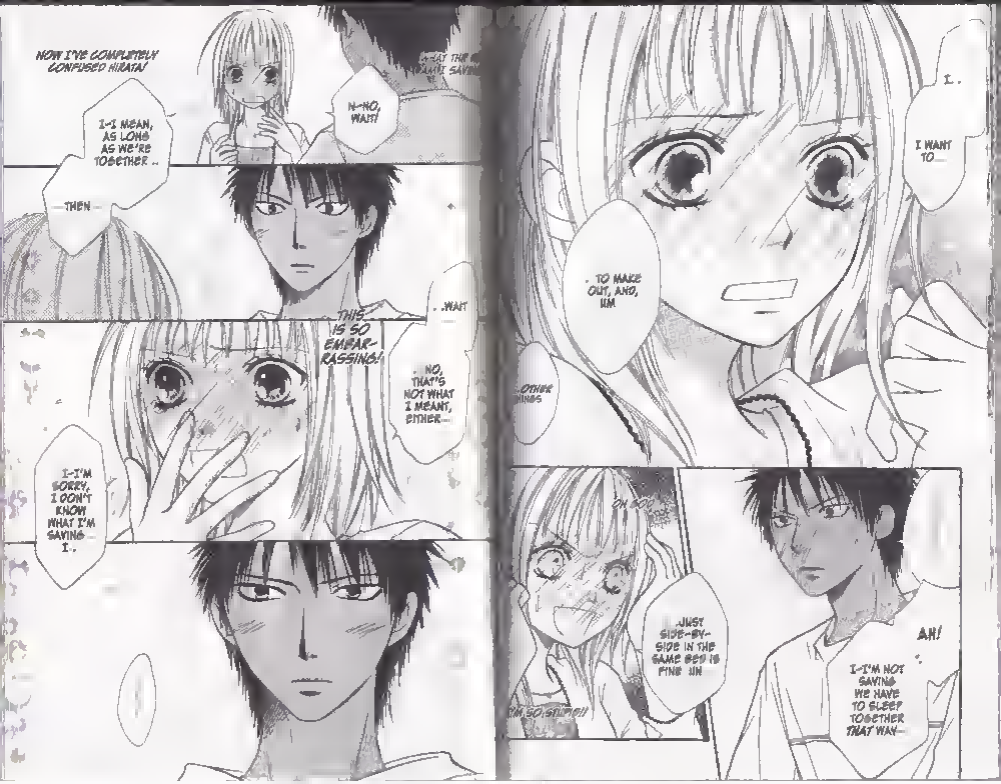
NOW I'VE COMPLETELY CONFUSED HIRATA!
N-NO, WAIT!
I-I MEAN, AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER..
THEN—
..WAIT
THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING!
..NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, EITHER—
I-I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING—I..
I..
I WANT TO—
..TO MAKE OUT, AND, UM
..OTHER THINGS
OH GOD
..JUST SIDE-BY-SIDE IN THE SAME BED IS FINE UM
I'M SO SILLY!!
AH!
I-I'M NOT SAYING WE HAVE TO SLEEP TOGETHER THAT WAY—

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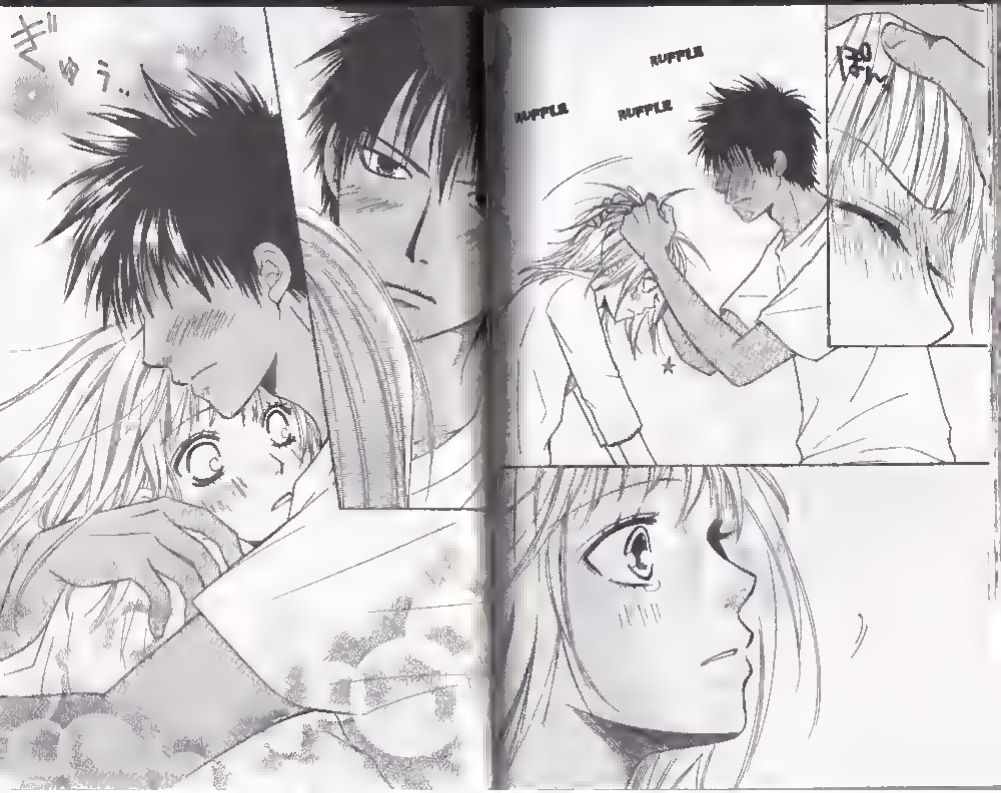

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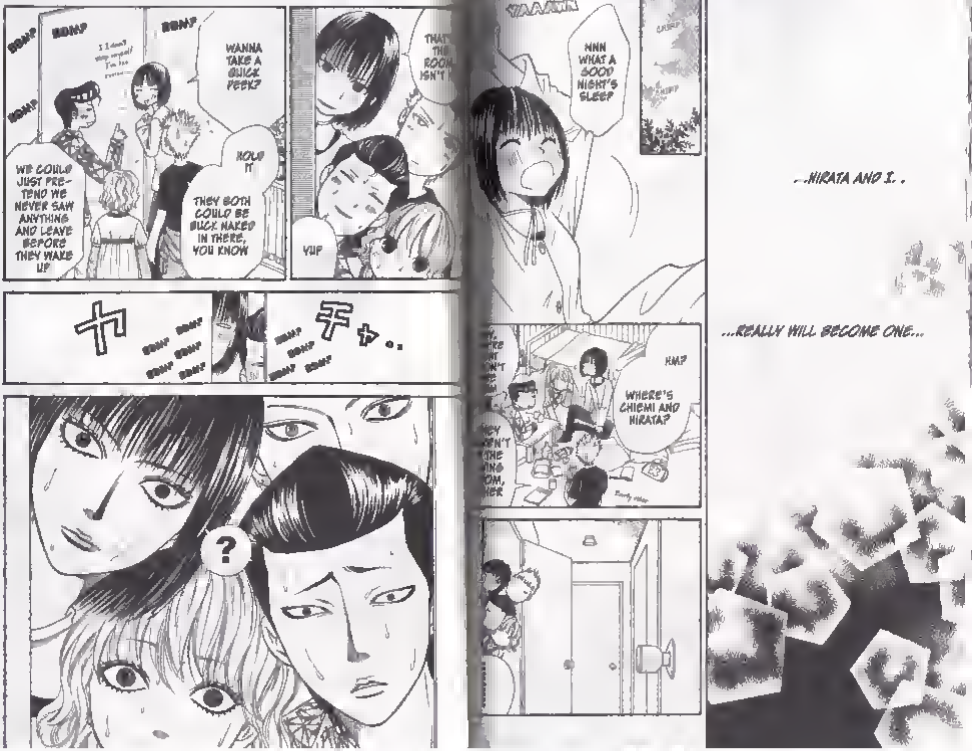

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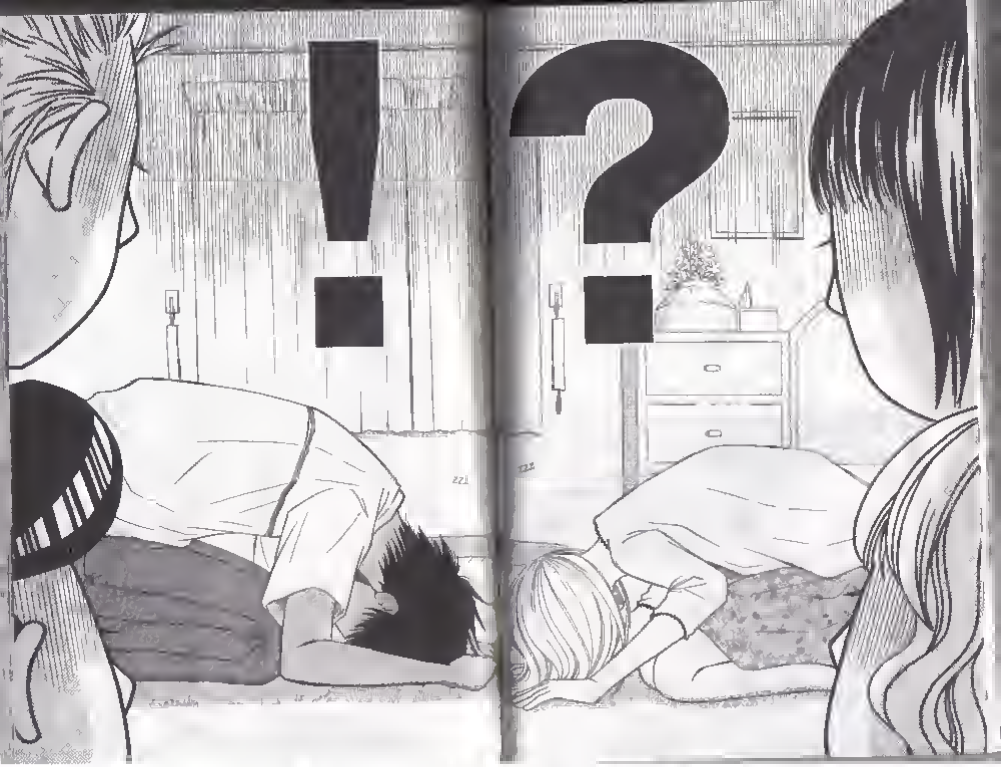

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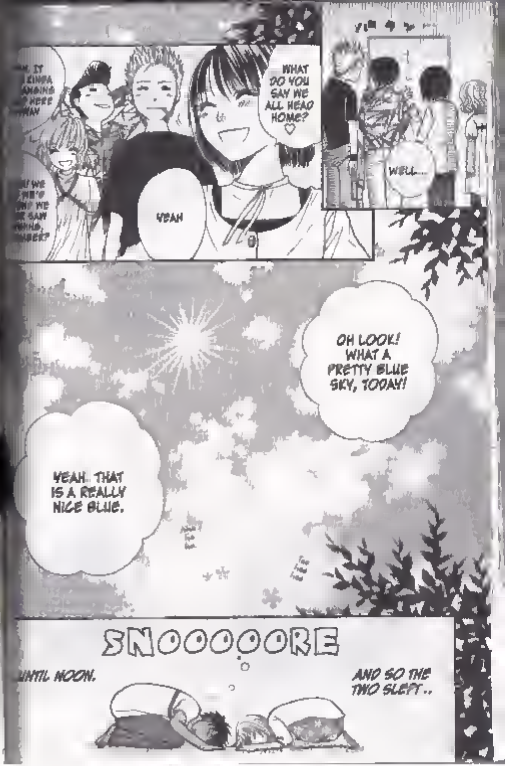
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE ALL HEAD HOME?
YEAH
WELL...
OH LOOK! WHAT A PRETTY BLUE SKY, TODAY!
YEAH. THAT IS A REALLY NICE BLUE.
SNOOOOORE
UNTIL NOON.
AND SO THE TWO SLEPT..

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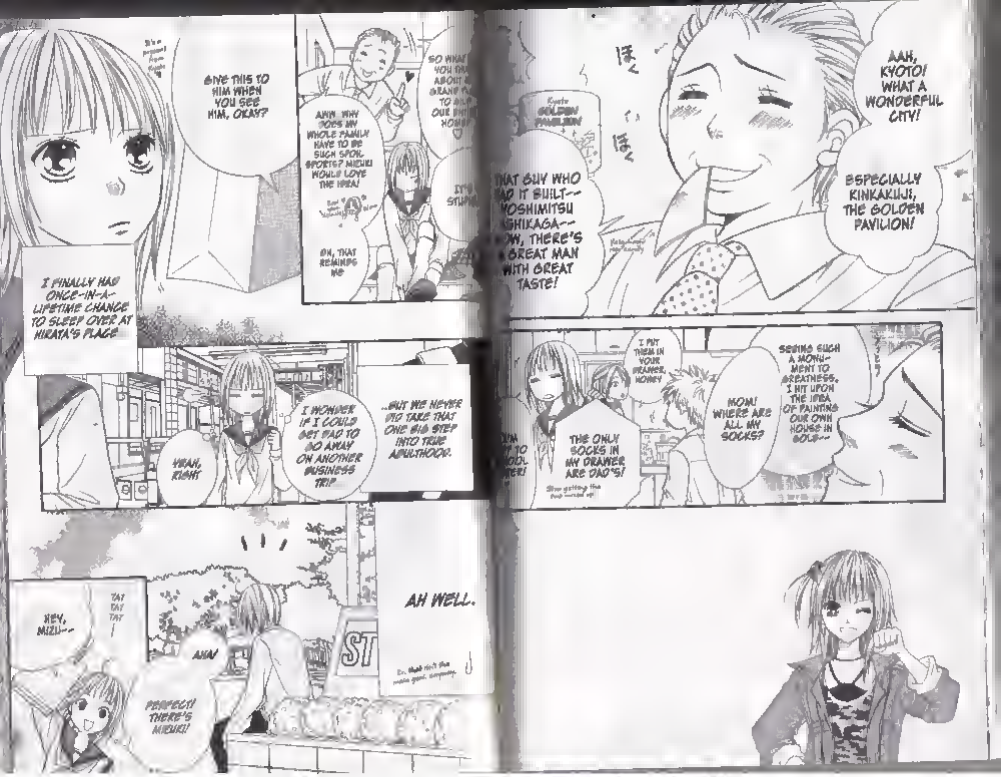
AAH, KYOTO! WHAT A WONDERFUL CITY!
ESPECIALLY KINKAKUJI, THE GOLDEN PAVILION!
KYOTO GOLDEN PAVILION
THAT GUY WHO HAD IT BUILT--YOSHIMITSU ASHIKAGA--WOW, THERE'S A GREAT MAN WITH GREAT TASTE!
SEEING SUCH A MONUMENT TO GREATNESS, I HIT UPON THE IDEA OF PAINTING OUR OWN HOUSE IN GOLD--
MOM! WHERE ARE ALL MY SOCKS?
I PUT THEM IN YOUR DRAWER, HONEY
THE ONLY SOCKS IN MY DRAWER ARE DAD'S!
SO WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT A BRAND NEW TO ANY OUR FIRST HOUSE!
AWW, WHY DOES MY WHOLE FAMILY HAVE TO BE SUCH SPOILSPORTS? MIZUKI WOULD LOVE THE IDEA!
OH, THAT REMINDS ME
IT'S STUPID
GIVE THIS TO HIM WHEN YOU SEE HIM, OKAY?
I FINALLY HAD ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE TO SLEEP OVER AT MIZUKI'S PLACE
YEAH, RIGHT
I WONDER IF I COULD GET DAD TO GO AWAY ON ANOTHER BUSINESS TRIP
...BUT WE NEVER DID TAKE THAT ONE BIG STEP INTO TRUE ADULTHOOD.
AH WELL.
HEY, MIZU--
TAT TAT TAT!
AHA!
PERFECT! THERE'S MIZUKI!

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W-WAIT...
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? WHEN YOU SEE GUYS LIKE THAT COMING TOWARDS YOU, YOU NEED TO RUN!
C'MON, MIZUKI! WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
KUH?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
ACK!!
OOPS! I'M SORRY, MIZUKI
TRIP
ARE YOU OKAY?
!!
STATION
WHAT THE HELL O'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN' TO MY COUSIN?!!

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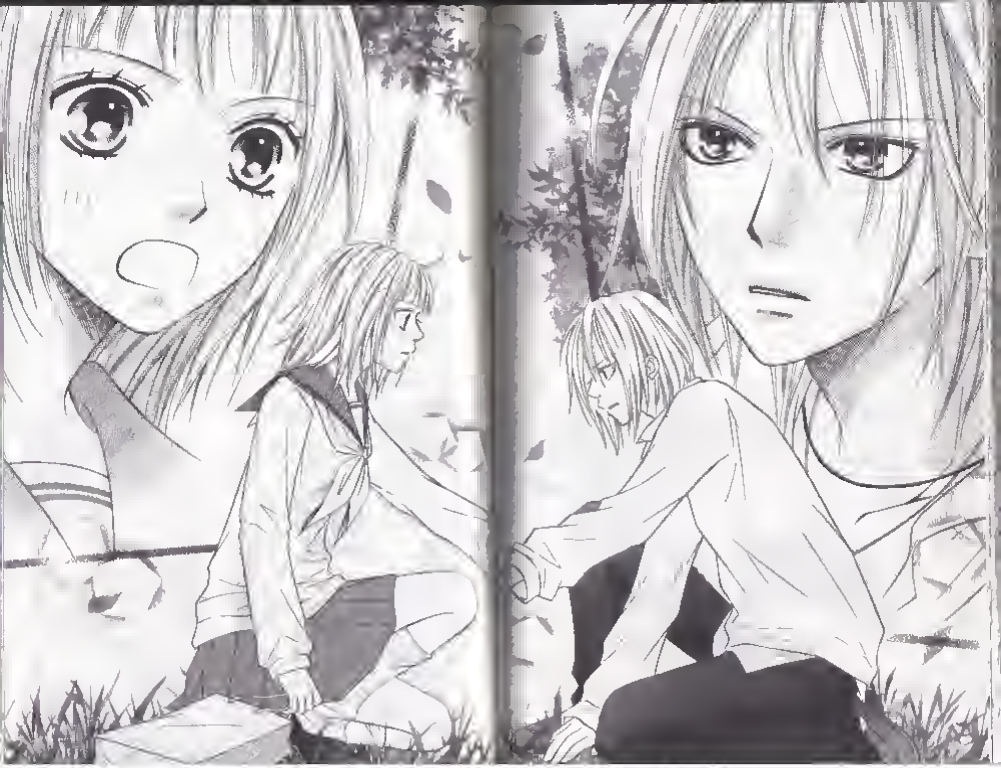

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
IT'S OKAY.
THEY WERE JUST SOME GUYS ASKING ME FOR DIRECTIONS
HOLY CRAP!! KILLER BISHONEN ALERT!!
OH MY GOD, I'M SO SORRY!
WHAT THE--?!
TALK ABOUT YOUR SUDDEN SURPRISES!
WHAT ?!
I LOST A CONTACT.
O-OH REALLY?
BUT NEVER MIND THEM...
IS HE MAD AT ME...?
HERE, I'LL HELP LOOK!!
THOSE GENTLEMEN I TRAMPLED OVER EARLIER WERE YOUR FRIENDS, WEREN'T THEY?
HE GETS PICKED ON REALLY ALL THE TIME, SO I THOUGHT YOU WERE HIM AND THOSE GUYS WERE TRYING TO ROB YOU--
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE! FROM BEHIND YOU LOOK ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE MY COUSIN MIZUKI!

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NISHI HIGH, SAME AS YOU...
REALLY?
Your mother looks a lot younger for a child of her age. I mean that.
UH?
WHAT SCHOOL?
SO, UM, WHERE DO YOU GO?
I THINK HE JUST MADE MY HEART SKIP A BEAT.
MY NAME IS YUUYA TACHIBANA
I'M IN CLASS 1-J.
OH, NICE TO MEET YOU, TACHIBANA-KUN.
An angel or devil?
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO FORMAL. JUST YUUYA IS FINE
SO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
THANKS.
UH, NO PROBLEM.
OH GEEZ, I'M GOOD!

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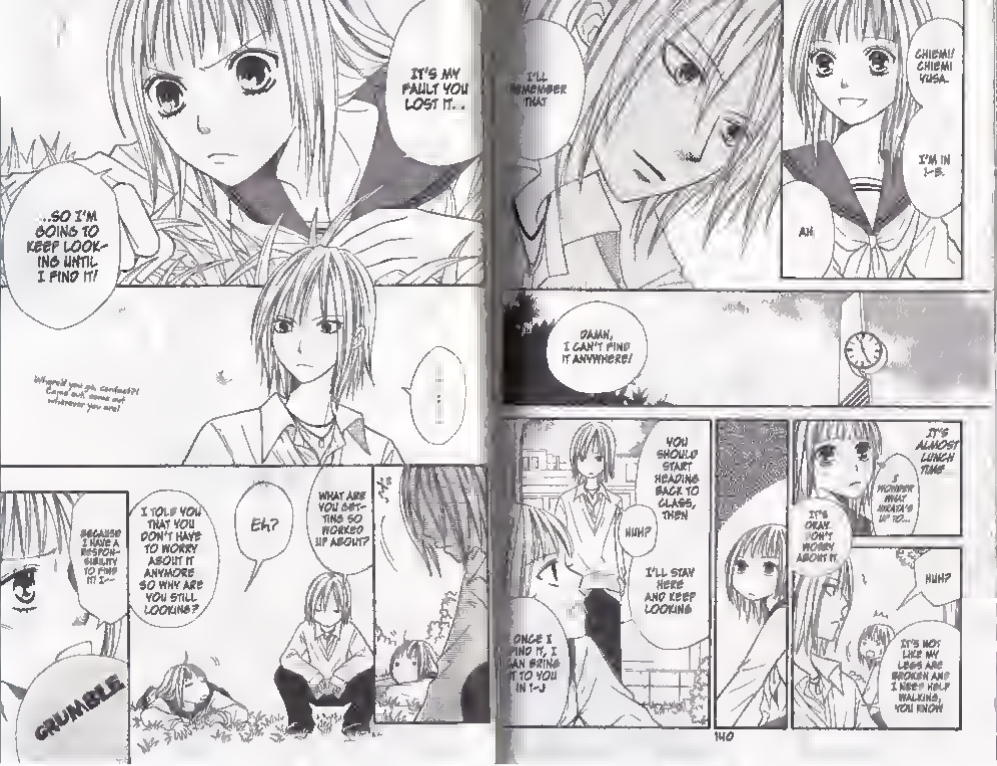
IT'S MY FAULT YOU LOST IT..
..SO I'M GOING TO KEEP LOOKING UNTIL I FIND IT!
Whyyyd you go, cardinal?! Come out, come out wherever you are!
I'LL REMEMBER THAT
CHIEMI! CHIEMI YUSA.
I'M IN 1-B.
AH
DAMN, I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE!
IT'S ALMOST LUNCH TIME
I WONDER WHAT AKIKO'S UP TO...
YOU SHOULD START HEADING BACK TO CLASS, THEN
HUH?
I'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP LOOKING
ONCE I FIND IT, I CAN BRING IT TO YOU IN 1-J
IT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
HUH?
IT'S NOT LIKE MY LEGS ARE BROKEN AND I NEED HELP WALKING, YOU KNOW
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT?
Eh?
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT ANYMORE SO WHY ARE YOU STILL LOOKING?
BECAUSE I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND IT! I--
GRUMBLE

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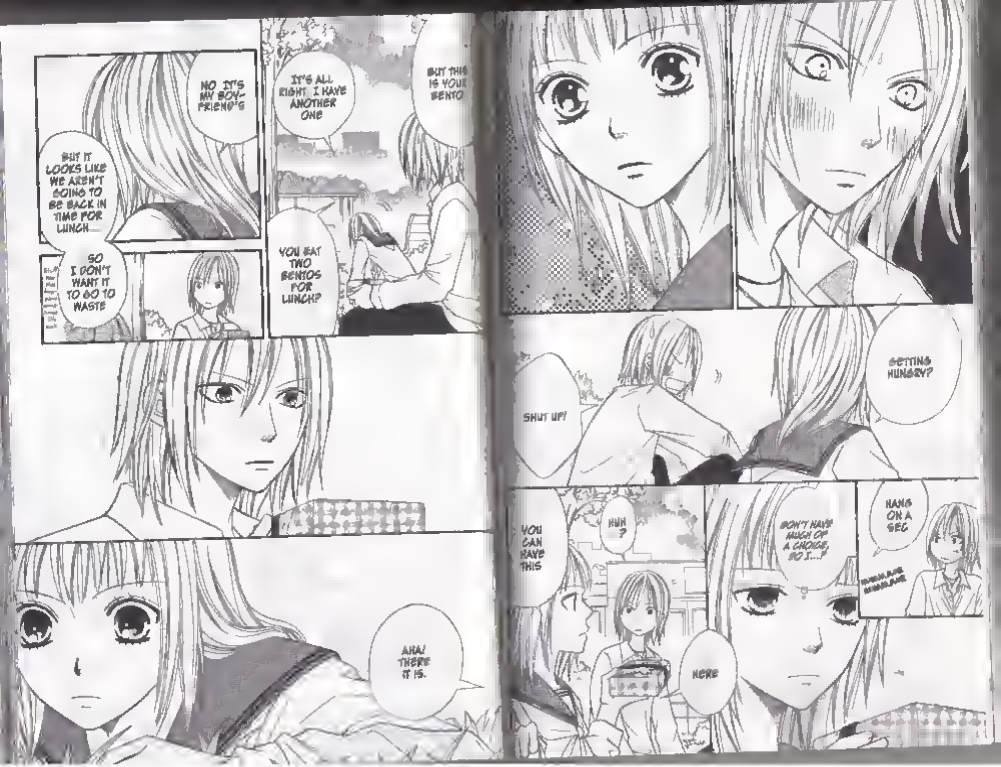
NO, IT'S MY BOYFRIEND'S
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE AREN'T GOING TO BE BACK IN TIME FOR LUNCH...
SO I DON'T WANT IT TO GO TO WASTE
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I HAVE ANOTHER ONE
BUT THIS IS YOUR BENTO
YOU EAT TWO BENTOS FOR LUNCH?
AHA! THERE IT IS.
SHUT UP!
GETTING HUNGRY?
YOU CAN HAVE THIS
HUH ?
I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE, DO I...?
HANG ON A SEC
HERE

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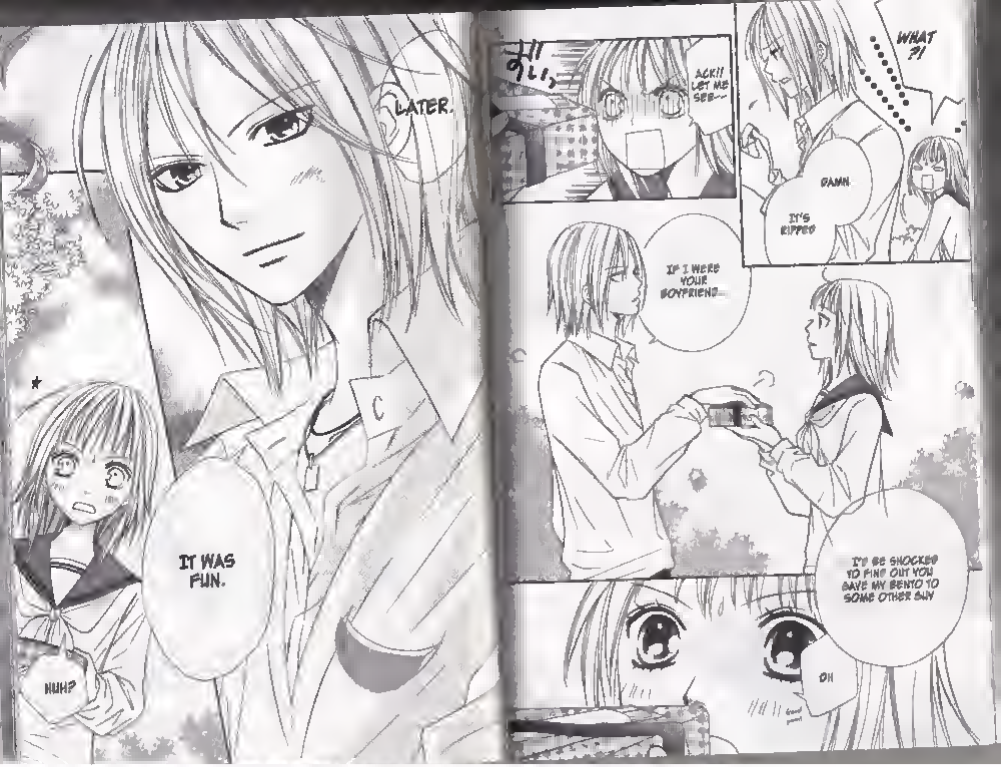

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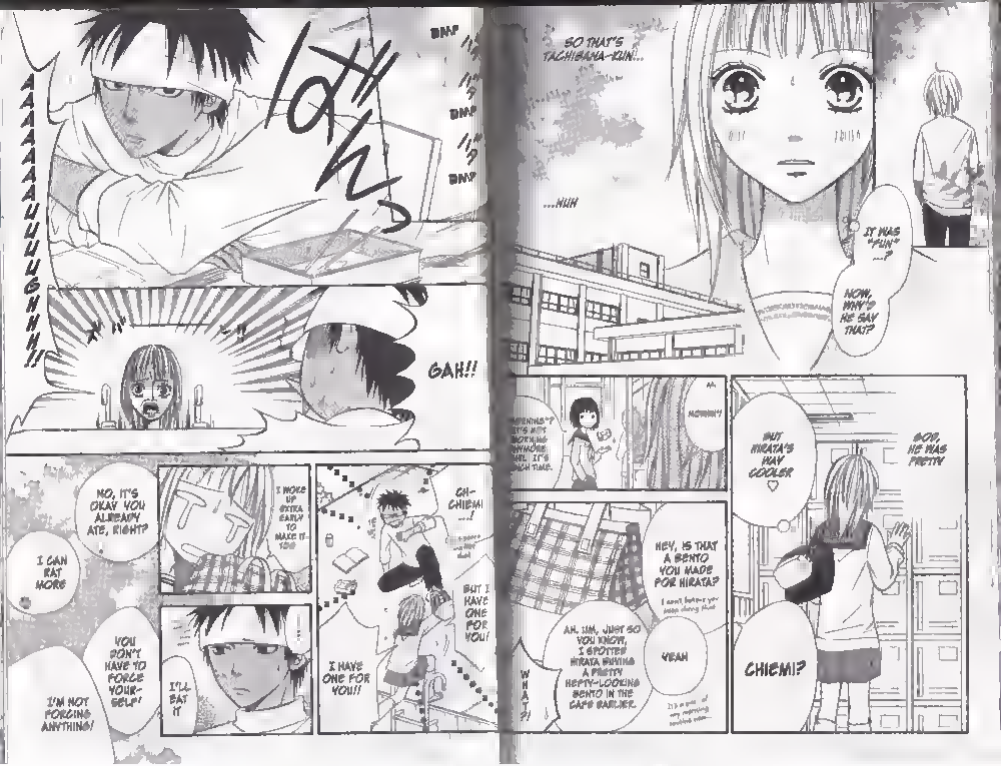
AAAAAAAUUUGHHH!!
DNF
DNF
DNF
GAH!!
I WOKE UP EXTRA EARLY TO MAKE IT. SO
NO, IT'S OKAY. YOU ALREADY ATE, RIGHT?
I CAN EAT MORE
I'LL EAT IT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF!
I'M NOT FORCING ANYTHING!
CH-CHIEMI ...?
BUT I HAVE ONE FOR YOU!
I HAVE ONE FOR YOU!!!
SO THAT'S TACHIBANA-KUN...
...HUH
IT WAS "FUN" ...?
HOW, HOW'D HE SAY THAT?
AH.
HOHMMM
HAPPENINGS? IT'S NOT BOOKING ANYWHERE. WELL, IT'S SUCH TIME.
HEY, IS THAT A BENTO YOU MADE FOR HIRATA?
I can't believe you made dating food
YEAH
WHAT?!
AH, UM, JUST SO YOU KNOW, I SPOTTED HIRATA EATING A PRETTY HAPPY-LOOKING BENTO IN THE CAFE EARLIER.
It's a pic of my morning cooking adventure
BUT HIRATA'S HAIR COOLER ♡
AGH, HE WAS PRETTY
CHIEMI?

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I SAID I CAN EAT IT, SO I'M GONNA EAT IT!!
I, UH, DID MEAN IT, YOU KNOW
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT THAT IF YOU'RE TOO FULL
IT'S ONE OF YOUR HANDMADE LUNCHES
I ALWAYS HAVE ROOM FOR MORE OF YOUR COOKING.
GOBLE GOBLE
YEAH.
BUT THAT ONE'S YOURS
WAIT! HERE, YOU TAKE THIS ONE
AH!
YEAH, BUT MINE DOESN'T HAVE AS MUCH AS YOURS DOES
HEY, YOU SAID YOU GOT UP EXTRA EARLY TO MAKE THIS, RIGHT? SO YOU'RE NOT LATE BECAUSE YOU OVERSLEPT?
BESIDES, THIS IS THE ONE I ALMOST GAVE AWAY TO ANOTHER GUY
URP
HM.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY BOTHER WITH CRAP LIKE THAT. ISN'T IT TOO MUCH OF A PAIN?
NOPE. I WAS HELPING THIS GUY FIND A DROPPED CONTACT

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1-B
CHIBM
Next day...
WHAT, THE STATE OF YOUR FACE?
You were in another all over the place.
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
THERE'S AN UNEARTHLY BEAUTY OF A MAN STANDING OUTSIDE THAT DOOR, AND HE'S ASKING FOR YOU!!
HUH?

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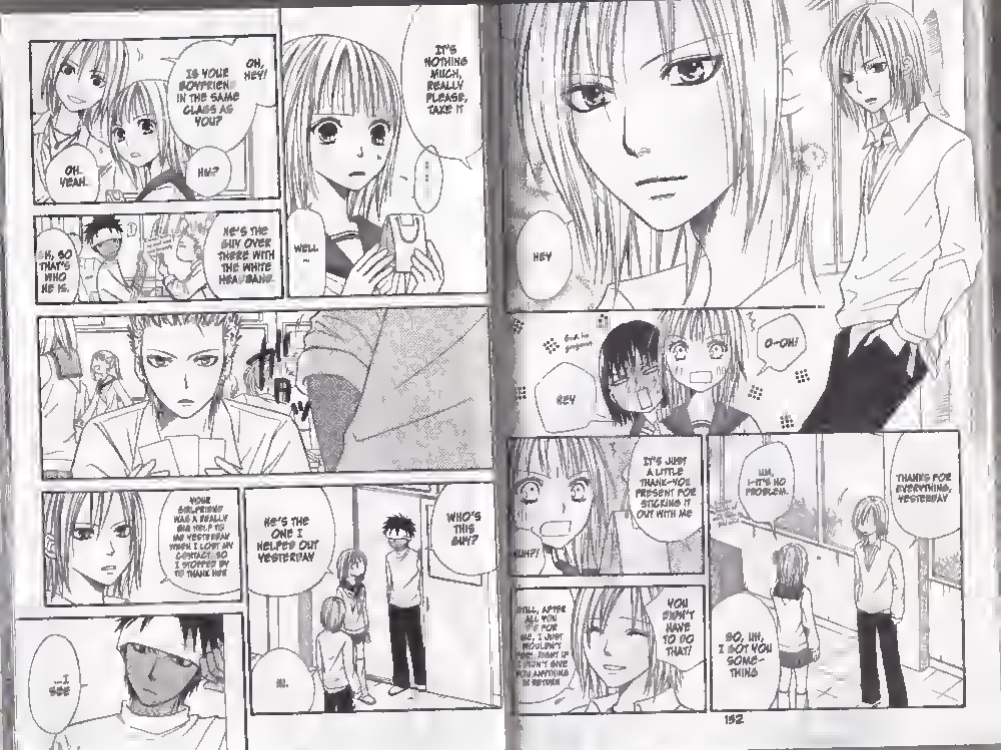
OH, HEY!
IS YOUR BOYFRIEND IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU?
OH, YEAH.
HM?
IT'S NOTHING MUCH, REALLY. PLEASE, TAKE IT
WELL...
HE'S THE GUY OVER THERE WITH THE WHITE HEADBAND.
H, SO THAT'S WHO HE IS.
HEY
O-OH!
IT'S JUST A LITTLE THANK-YOU PRESENT FOR SPENDING IT OUT WITH ME
HUH?!
UH, I-IT'S NO PROBLEM.
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, YESTERDAY
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
SO, UH, I GOT YOU SOMETHING
YOUR GIRLFRIEND WAS A REALLY BIG HELP TO ME YESTERDAY WHEN I LOST MY CONTACT, SO I STOPPED BY TO THANK HER
HE'S THE ONE I HELPED OUT YESTERDAY
WHO'S THIS GUY?
HI.
...I SEE

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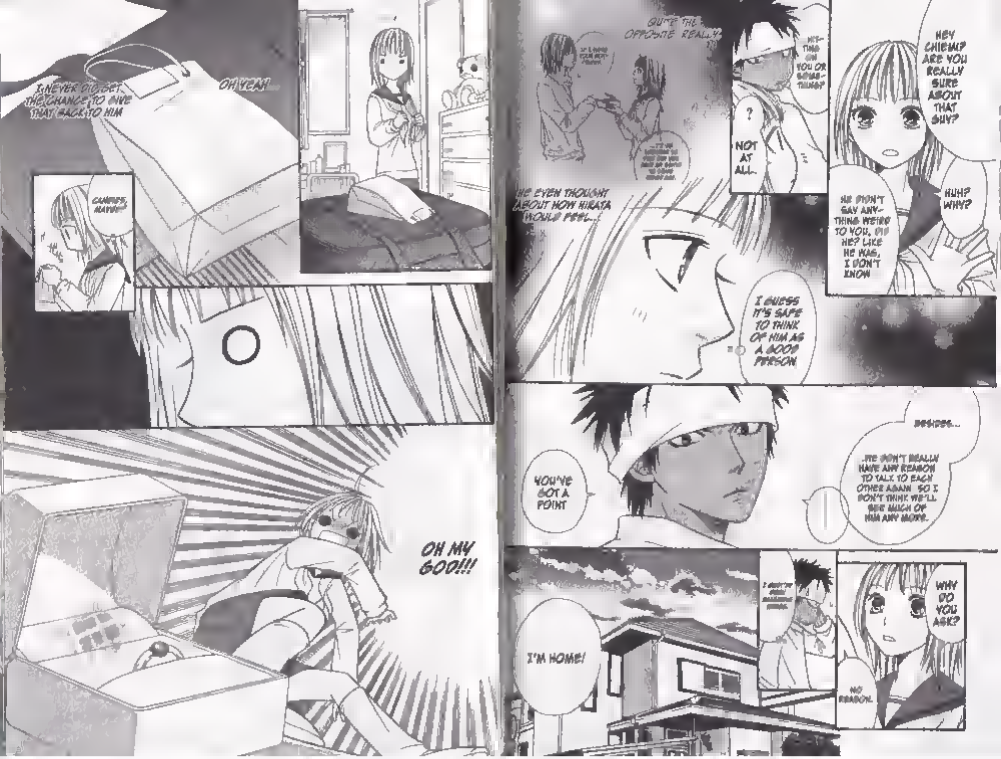
I'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO GIVE THAT BACK TO HIM
OH YEAH...
CHIEMI, HARU?
HI, HARU
OH MY GOD!!!
BUT IT'S THE OPPOSITE REAL...?
NOT AT ALL.
HE EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT HOW HIRATA WOULD FEEL...
I GUESS IT'S SAFE TO THINK OF HIM AS A GOOD PERSON
HEY CHIEMI? ARE YOU REALLY SURE ABOUT THAT GUY?
HUH? WHY?
HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING WEIRD TO YOU, DID HE? LIKE HE WAS, I DON'T KNOW
YOU'VE GOT A POINT
...WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY REASON TO TALK TO EACH OTHER AGAIN. SO I DON'T THINK WE'LL SEE MUCH OF HIM ANY MORE.
I'M HOME!
WHY DO YOU ASK?
NO REASON.

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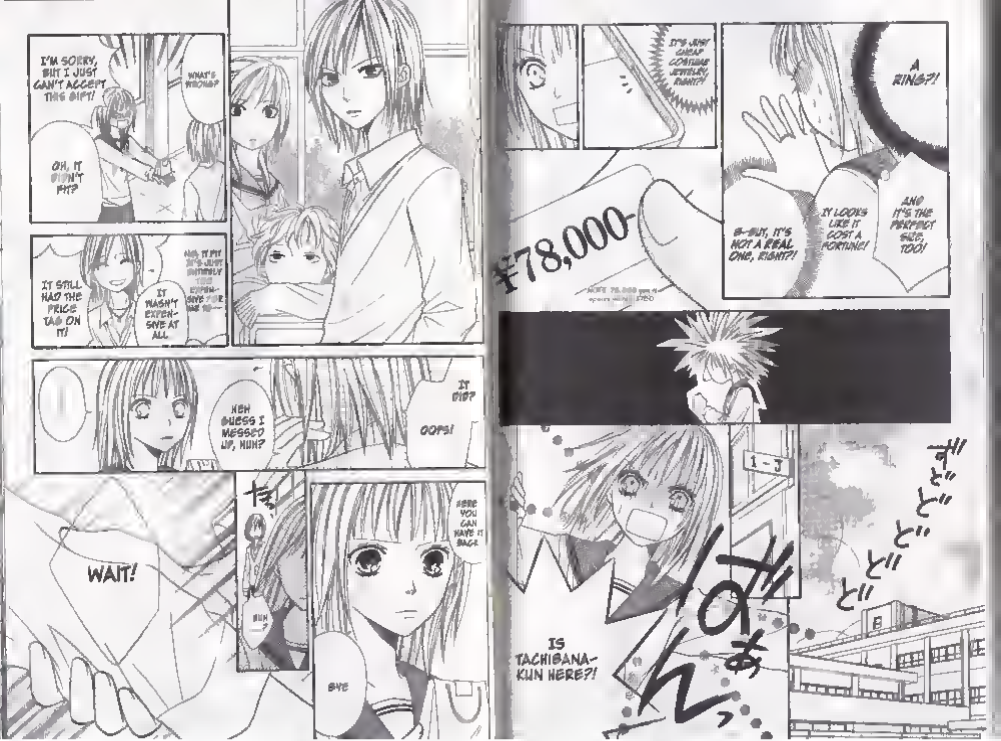
I'M SORRY, BUT I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT THIS GIFT!
OH, IT DIDN'T FIT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT STILL HAS THE PRICE TAG ON IT!
IT WASN'T EXPENSIVE AT ALL.
AW, IT FIT. IT'S JUST SMALL
EXPENSIVE
IT DID?
OOPS!
HEH GUESS I MESSED UP, HUH?
WAIT!
HERE YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK
BYE
IT'S JUST CHEAP COSTUME JEWELRY, DUH!!
A RING?!
¥78,000-
B-BUT, IT'S NOT A REAL ONE, RIGHT?!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT COST A FORTUNE!
AND IT'S THE PERFECT SIZE, TOO!
1 - J
IS TACHIBANA-KUN HERE?!

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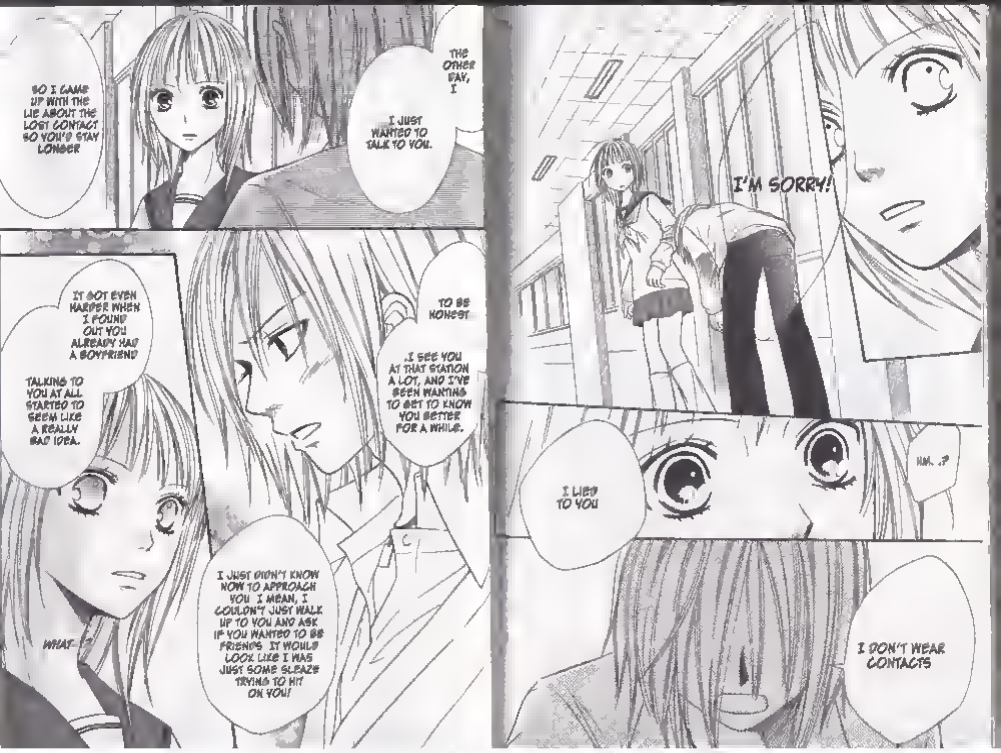
THE OTHER DAY, I
I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO YOU.
SO I CAME UP WITH THE LIE ABOUT THE LOST CONTACT SO YOU'D STAY LONGER
I'M SORRY!
HM..?
I LIED TO YOU
I DON'T WEAR CONTACTS
TO BE HONEST
I SEE YOU AT THAT STATION A LOT, AND I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER FOR A WHILE.
IT GOT EVEN HARDER WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU ALREADY HAD A BOYFRIEND
TALKING TO YOU AT ALL STARTED TO SEEM LIKE A REALLY BAD IDEA.
I JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO APPROACH YOU. I MEAN, I COULDN'T JUST WALK UP TO YOU AND ASK IF YOU WANTED TO BE FRIENDS. IT WOULD LOOK LIKE I WAS JUST SOME SLEAZE TRYING TO HIT ON YOU!
WHAT...?

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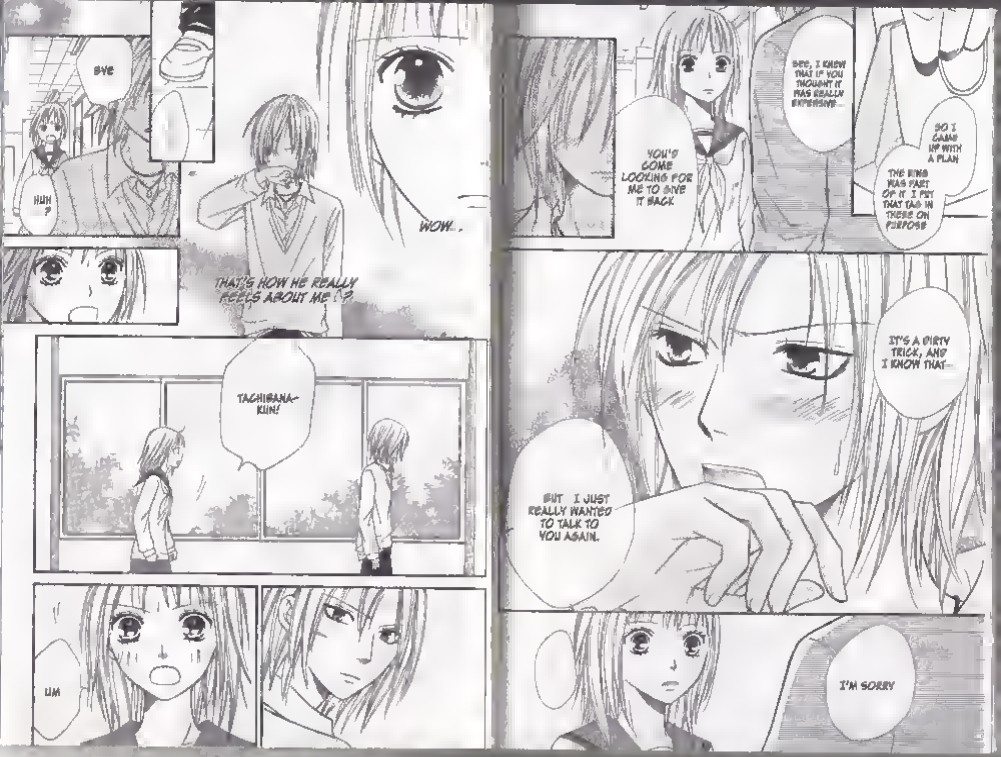
BYE
HUH ?
WOW..
THAT'S HOW HE REALLY FEELS ABOUT ME..!?
TACHIBANA-KUN!
UM
I'M SORRY
BUT I JUST REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU AGAIN.
IT'S A DIRTY TRICK, AND I KNOW THAT...
YOU'D COME LOOKING FOR ME TO GIVE IT BACK.
SEE, I KNEW THAT IF YOU THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY EXPENSIVE...
SO I CAME UP WITH A PLAN
THE RING WAS FAKE OF IT. I PUT THAT TAG IN THERE ON PURPOSE

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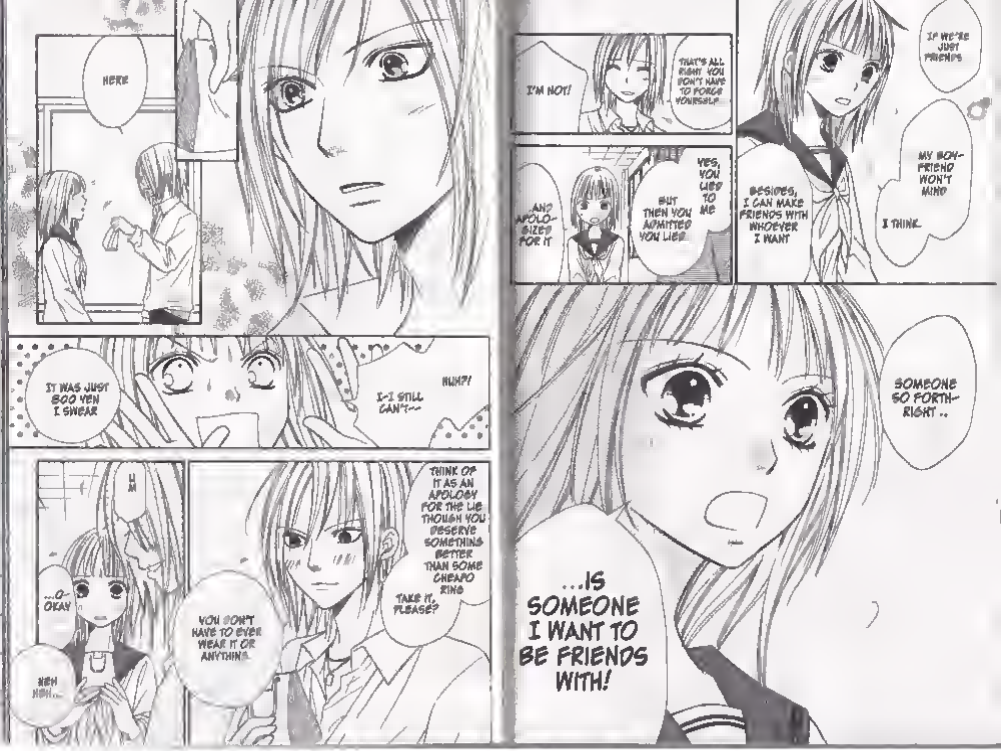
HERE
IT WAS JUST 800 YEN I SWEAR
I-I STILL CAN'T--
HUH?!
HM
...O-OKAY
HEH HEH...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EVER WEAR IT OR ANYTHING.
THINK OF IT AS AN APOLOGY FOR THE LIE THOUGH YOU DESERVE SOMETHING BETTER THAN SOME CHEAPO RING
TAKE IT, PLEASE?
I'M NOT!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF
YES, YOU LIED TO ME
BUT THEN YOU ADMITTED YOU LIED.
AND APOLOGIZED FOR IT
BESIDES, I CAN MAKE FRIENDS WITH WHOEVER I WANT
IF WE'RE JUST FRIENDS
MY BOYFRIEND WON'T MIND
I THINK.
SOMEONE SO FORTHRIGHT..
...IS SOMEONE I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH!

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UH, YOU DO REALIZE HER BOY-FRIEND IS THAT HIRATA, RIGHT?
HE'LL BEAT YOU TO A PULP IF HE FINDS OUT
WHAT, YOU TWO CHICK-SHING OUT OR SOME-THING?
HOLY CRAP, YOU GOT HER PHONE NUMBER ALREADY?!
YEP!
WHAT WILL SHIBERU SAY?
CHIEMI'S A NICE GIRL
REALLY SWEET
HE'LL HELP I KNOW HE WILL
KIND.
HONEST
..AND TRUSTING SHE'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU SAY AND BELIEVE THE BEST IN YOU.
GREAT!
Chiemi Yusa XXX – YYYY
BOING
WOW, HE'S CUTE
YO, TACHIBANA!

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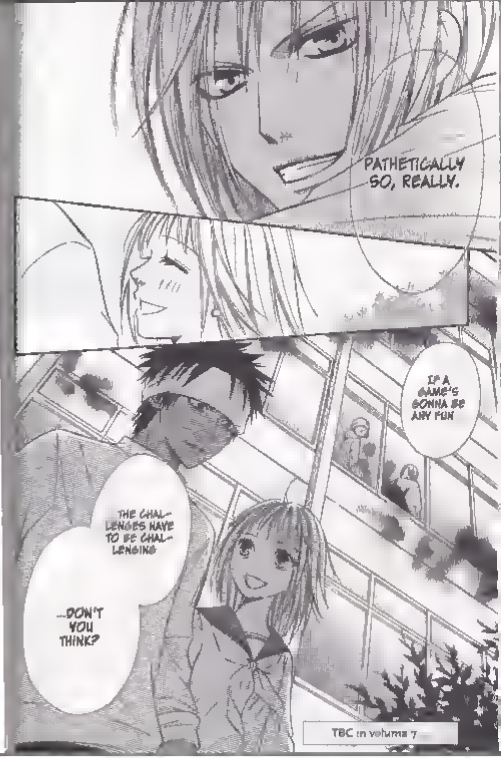
IN THE NEXT...

LOVE ATTACK!

JUNAI TOKKO TAICHO!

MIZUKI-LOOK-ALIKE TACHIBANA SURE IS ONE PRETTY BOY. BUT WHEN THE DEVILISH ANTICS HIDDEN BEHIND HIS HEAVENLY SMILE REAR THEIR UGLY HEAD, CHIEMI IS TOO NAIVE AND JUST A LITTLE TOO SMITTEN TO NOTICE IT. WILL THE RESIDENT DEVIL, DERANGED DEVIL HIRATA, PROTECT CHIEMI AND THEIR LOVE, OR HAS HIS REIGN OF TERROR COME TO AN END?



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